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X-MEN
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248
SEPT
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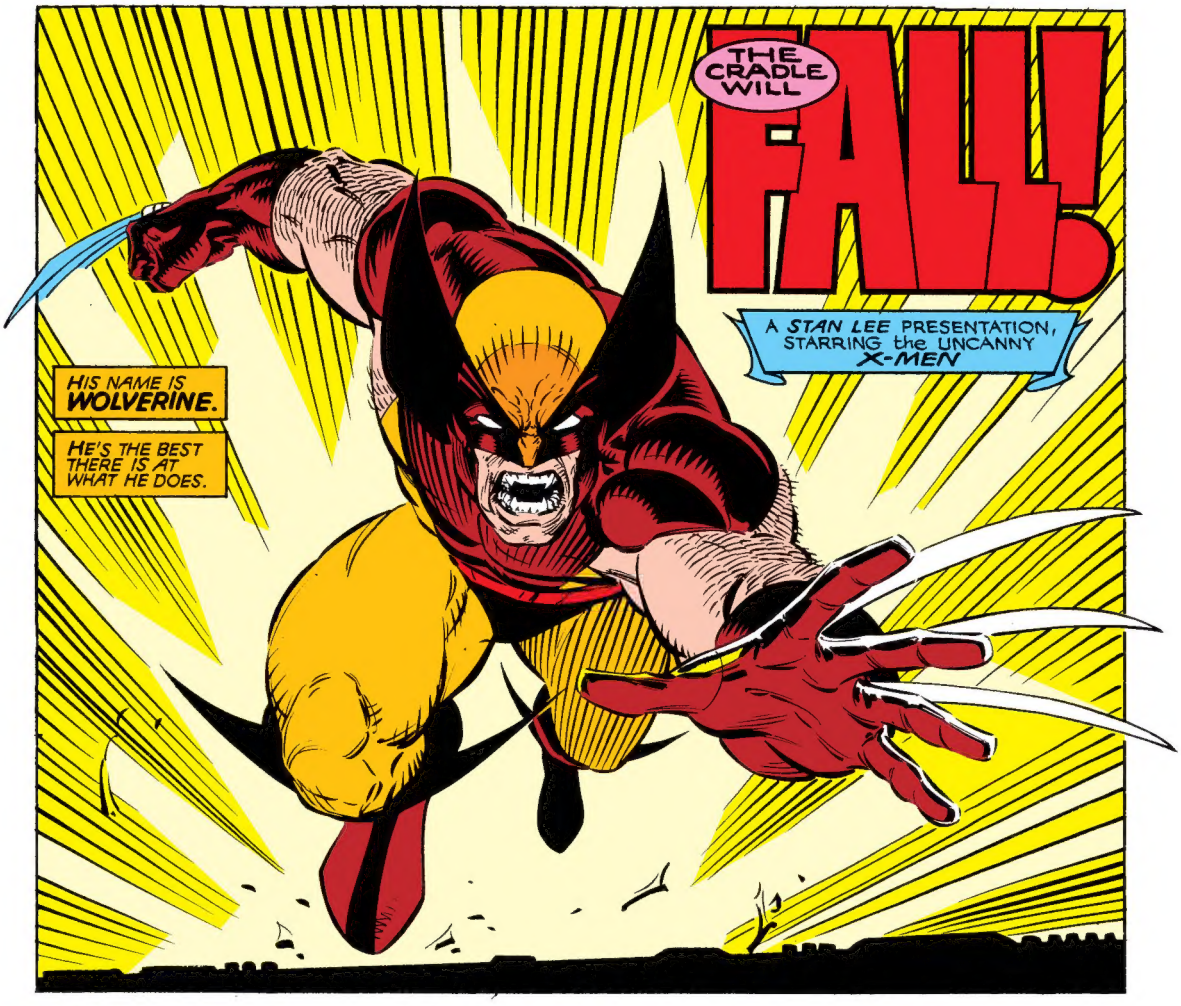
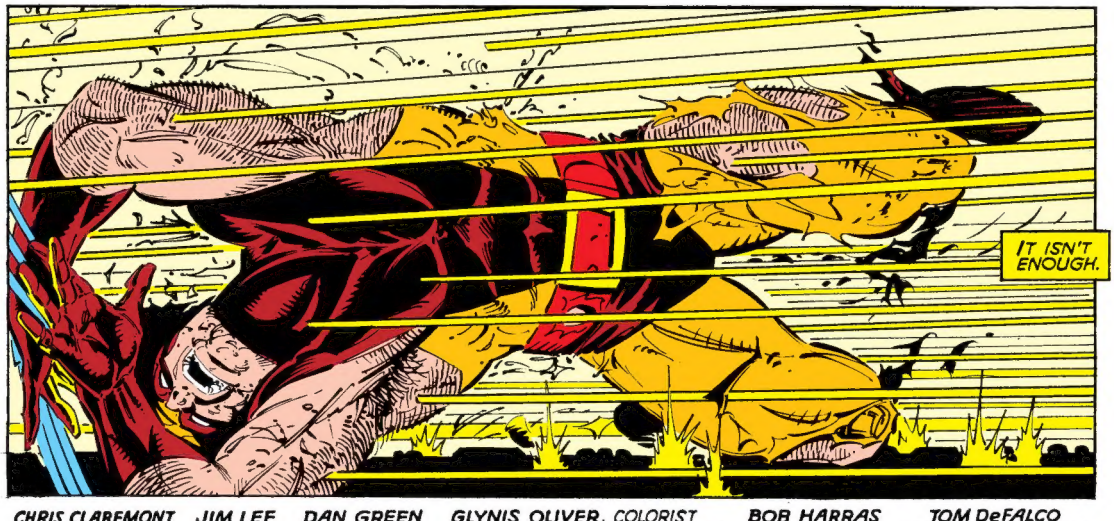
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
NOW ON SALE TWICE A MONTH!
WHY, HAVOK? WHY DID YOU KILL STORM!?
LEE
DG





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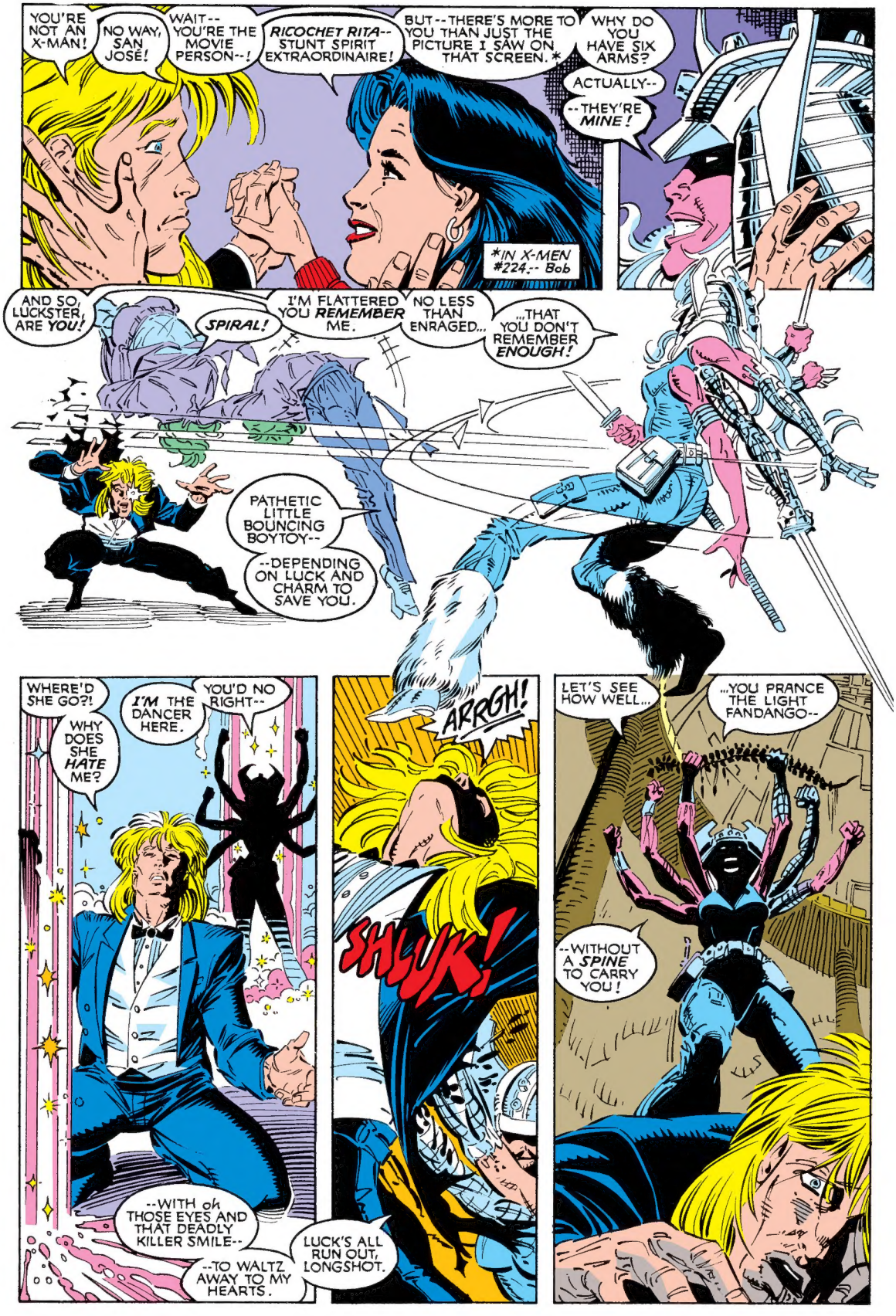
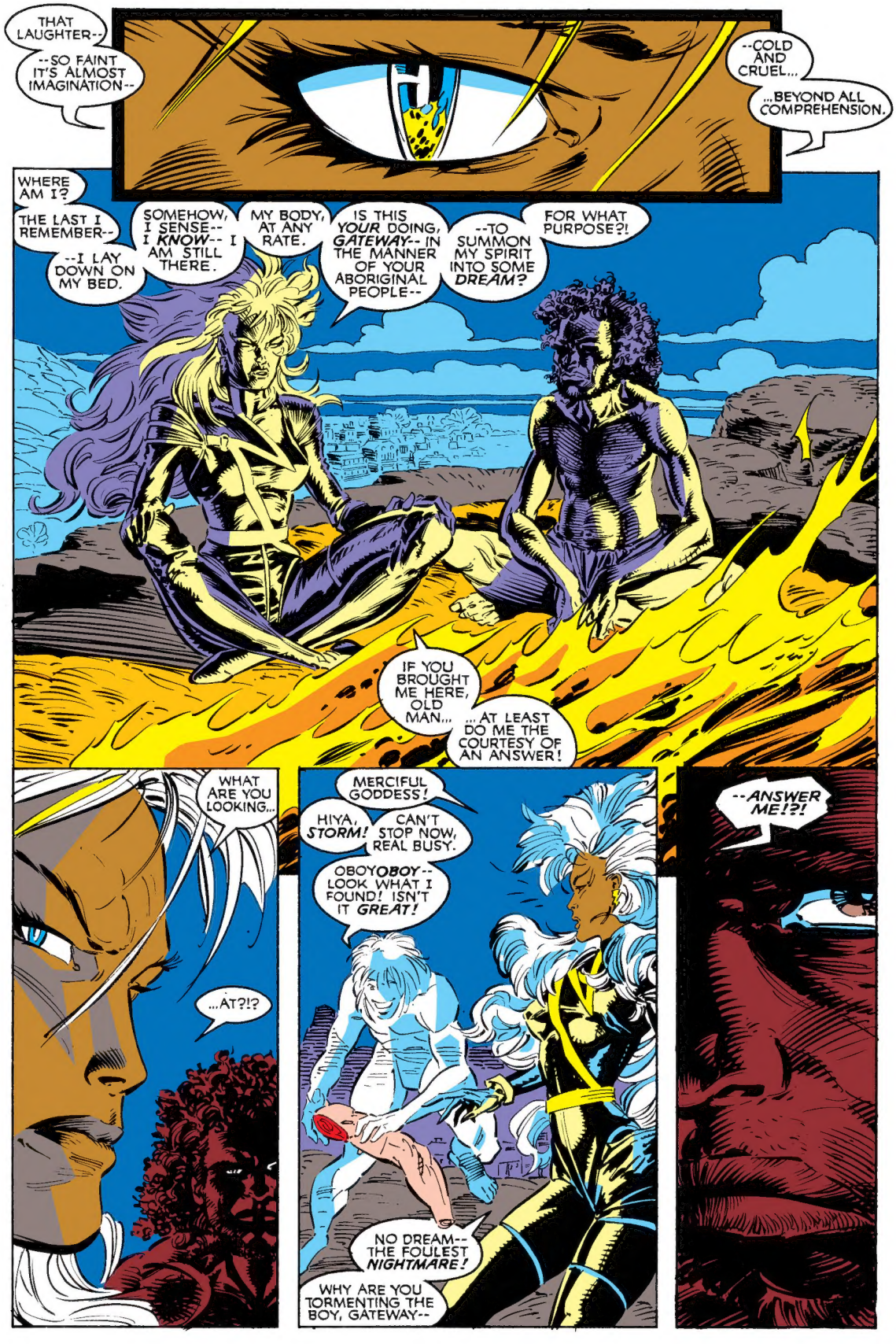
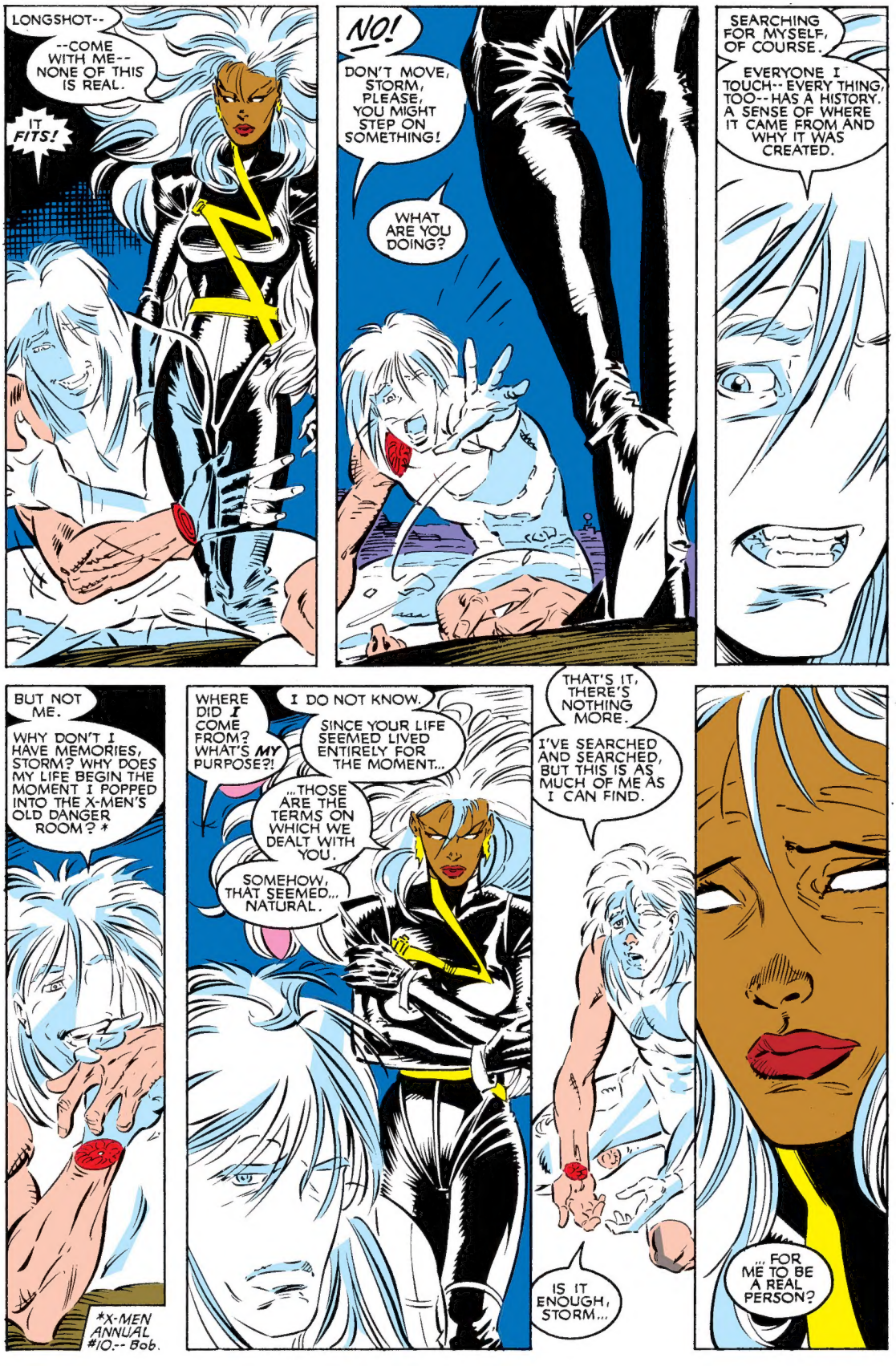
THE REAVERS
BONEBREAKER
HAWHWRR!
SURE DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE THEY USED TO!
SKULLBUSTER
LET'S HOPE NOT, COMPADRE--
--SINCE WE'RE PRIME EXAMPLES OF THAT "WAY" THEY USED TO.
PRETTY BOY
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, SKULL?
THAT'S JUST A ROBOT.
WE'RE CYBORGS.
HOWEVER, LADS AND LASSIE, LOATH AS I AM TO POOP OUR PARTY...
...I SUSPECT THE REAL THING WON'T BE SO EASY A KILL.
WOLVERINE'S BONES ARE LACED WITH ADAMANTIUM, THEY CAN'T BE BROKEN.
DONALD PIERCE
PERHAPS. BUT HE REMAINS MORTAL FLESH.
HE CAN BE HURT, HE BLEEDS.
AND ALSO HEALS.
AS MY MEN AND I, LORD PIERCE, LEARNED TO OUR COST.
WE ALL HAVE REASON TO HATE THE X-MEN, YURIKO--
--AND THIS X-MAN IN PARTICULAR--
--THAT IS WHY I BANDED US TOGETHER.
SO THAT, AS A WHOLE, WE MAY SUCCEED...
...WHERE, AS SEPARATE PARTS, WE FAILED.
AND BRING OUR ENEMIES TO THE FATEFUL, FATAL END...
...THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE.
LADY DEATHSTRIKE
REESE
COLE
MACON

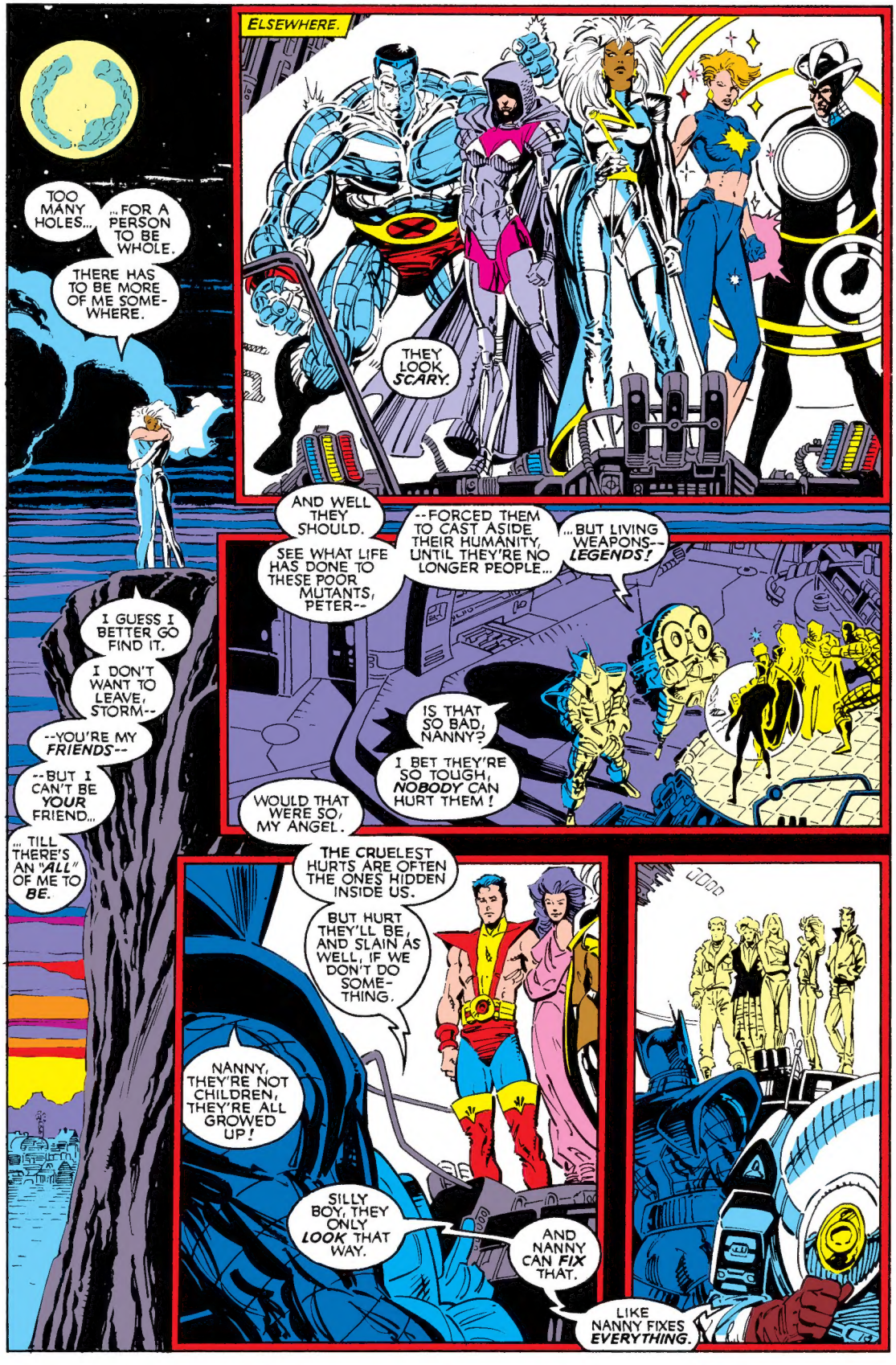
AUSTRALIA.
SORT OF.
BUT IN REALITY...
...ONLY A DREAM.
HEY!
LIGHT--SO BLINDINGLY BRIGHT--
--DAZZLER!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD FLY!
GET REAL, LONGSHOT!
THIS IS HOW A STAR MAKES HER ENTRANCE.
MY CLOTHES HAVE CHANGED!
GONNA DANCE WITH ME, CUTIE...
...GOTTA LOOK THE PROPER PART.
WHY ARE THE X-MEN PLAYING THE MUSIC?
WHY NOT?
SHALL WE?
TIME'S UP, LIGHTENGALE!
ROGUE!
Ukk!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
GO WITH THE FLOW, SUGAR.
AIN'T THAT WHAT YOU DO BEST?
GANGWAY!
AND THE CROWD GASPS WITH ASTONISH-MENT AND DELIGHT...
Gasp!
...AS THE STAR OF SCREENS SMALL AND LARGE--
--NOT TO MENTION COUNTLESS BACKYARD FANTASIES--
--MAKES HER LATEST CONQUEST!


YOU'RE NOT AN X-MAN!
NO WAY, SAN JOSÉ!
WAIT-- YOU'RE THE MOVIE PERSON--!
RICOCHET RITA-- STUNT SPIRIT EXTRAORDINAIRE!
BUT--THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN JUST THE PICTURE I SAW ON THAT SCREEN.*
WHY DO YOU HAVE SIX ARMS?
ACTUALLY--
--THEY'RE MINE!
*IN X-MEN #224.-- Bob
AND SO, LUCKSTER, ARE YOU!
SPIRAL!
I'M FLATTERED YOU REMEMBER ME.
NO LESS THAN ENRAGED...
...THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ENOUGH!
PATHETIC LITTLE BOUNCING BOYTOY--
--DEPENDING ON LUCK AND CHARM TO SAVE YOU.
WHERE'D SHE GO?!
WHY DOES SHE HATE ME?
I'M THE DANCER HERE.
YOU'D NO RIGHT--
--WITH oh THOSE EYES AND THAT DEADLY KILLER SMILE--
--TO WALTZ AWAY TO MY HEARTS.
ARRGH!
SHLUK!
LUCK'S ALL RUN OUT, LONGSHOT.
LET'S SEE HOW WELL...
...YOU PRANCE THE LIGHT FANDANGO--
--WITHOUT A SPINE TO CARRY YOU!

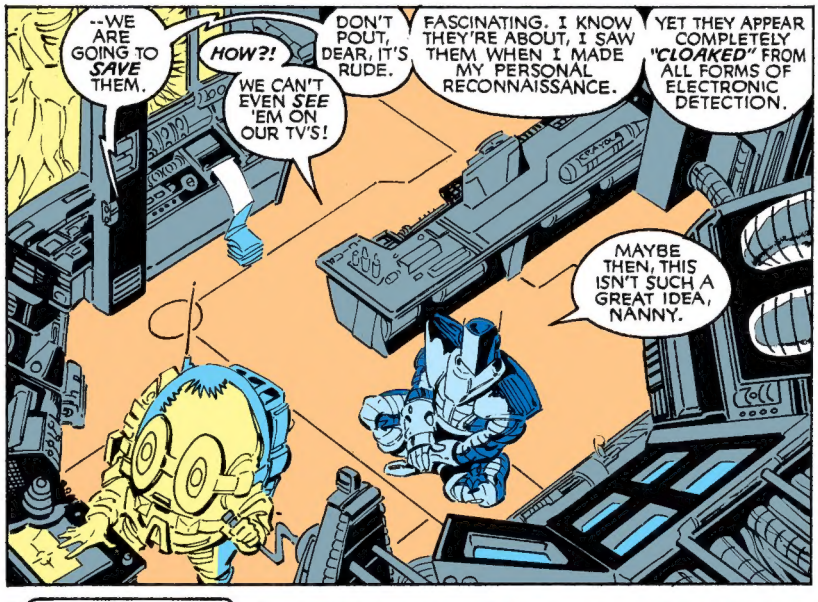
Heh.
WRETCHED ENCUMBRANCE.
Heh heh.
GLAD TO BE...
Hurrrm.
...RID OF IT.
SABLE SHARDS--
--NO!
SILLY SPIRAL--
--TWISTED SO TIGHT YOU FORGOT--
--FOR ALL THE DANCER'S ART...
...IT'S THE CHOREOGRAPHER WHO CALLS THE TUNE!
ZWIPPP!
UGKGH!
SHUNASHUK
SPINES ARE FOR BOOKS.
TOO EASILY BROKEN OR BURNED.
FLEXIBILITY'S THE ANSWER.
DON'T YOU AGREE?
NEVER FAILS.
SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, LONGSHOT...
...YOU ALWAYS KILL...
...THE ONE...
...YOU LOVE
HA
HOW CAN THAT BE, MY DEAD DECAYING DARLINGS?
I'M STILL HERE!


THAT LAUGHTER--
--SO FAINT IT'S ALMOST IMAGINATION--
--COLD AND CRUEL...
...BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION.
WHERE AM I?
THE LAST I REMEMBER--
--I LAY DOWN ON MY BED.
SOMEHOW, I SENSE-- I KNOW-- I AM STILL THERE.
MY BODY, AT ANY RATE.
IS THIS YOUR DOING, GATEWAY-- IN THE MANNER OF YOUR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE--
--TO SUMMON MY SPIRIT INTO SOME DREAM?
FOR WHAT PURPOSE?!
IF YOU BROUGHT ME HERE, OLD MAN...
...AT LEAST DO ME THE COURTESY OF AN ANSWER!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING...
...AT?!?
MERCIFUL GODDESS!
HIYA, STORM!
CAN'T STOP NOW, REAL BUSY.
OBOYOBOY-- LOOK WHAT I FOUND! ISN'T IT GREAT!
NO DREAM-- THE FOULEST NIGHTMARE!
WHY ARE YOU TORMENTING THE BOY, GATEWAY--
--ANSWER ME!?!

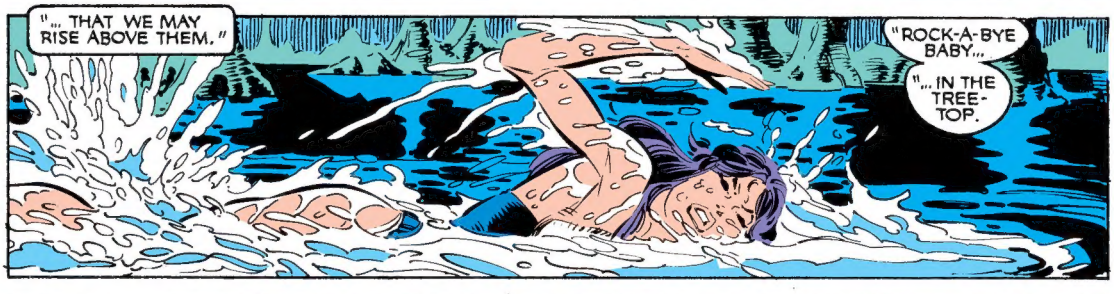

LONGSHOT--
--COME WITH ME-- NONE OF THIS IS REAL.
IT FITS!
NO!
DON'T MOVE, STORM, PLEASE, YOU MIGHT STEP ON SOMETHING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SEARCHING FOR MYSELF, OF COURSE.
EVERYONE I TOUCH-- EVERY THING, TOO-- HAS A HISTORY. A SENSE OF WHERE IT CAME FROM AND WHY IT WAS CREATED.
BUT NOT ME.
WHY DON'T I HAVE MEMORIES, STORM? WHY DOES MY LIFE BEGIN THE MOMENT I POPPED INTO THE X-MEN'S OLD DANGER ROOM? *
*X-MEN ANNUAL #10.-- Bob.
WHERE DID I COME FROM? WHAT'S MY PURPOSE?!
I DO NOT KNOW.
SINCE YOUR LIFE SEEMED LIVED ENTIRELY FOR THE MOMENT...
...THOSE ARE THE TERMS ON WHICH WE DEALT WITH YOU.
SOMEHOW, THAT SEEMED... NATURAL.
THAT'S IT, THERE'S NOTHING MORE.
I'VE SEARCHED AND SEARCHED, BUT THIS IS AS MUCH OF ME AS I CAN FIND.
IS IT ENOUGH, STORM...
... FOR ME TO BE A REAL PERSON?

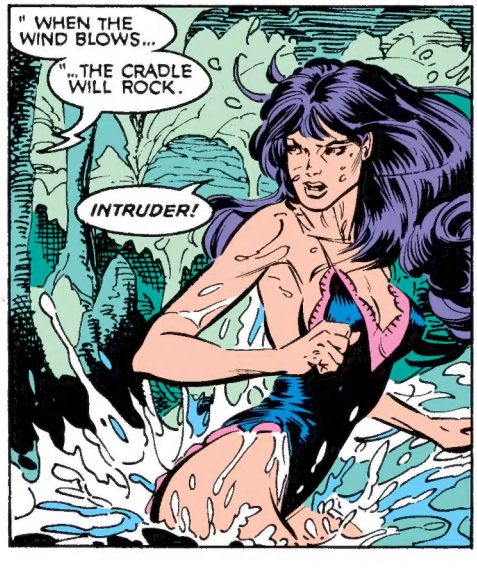

TOO MANY HOLES...
...FOR A PERSON TO BE WHOLE.
THERE HAS TO BE MORE OF ME SOMEWHERE.
I GUESS I BETTER GO FIND IT.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, STORM--
--YOU'RE MY FRIENDS--
--BUT I CAN'T BE YOUR FRIEND...
... TILL THERE'S AN "ALL" OF ME TO BE.
ELSEWHERE.
THEY LOOK SCARY.
AND WELL THEY SHOULD.
SEE WHAT LIFE HAS DONE TO THESE POOR MUTANTS, PETER--
--FORCED THEM TO CAST ASIDE THEIR HUMANITY, UNTIL THEY'RE NO LONGER PEOPLE...
...BUT LIVING WEAPONS--- LEGENDS!
IS THAT SO BAD, NANNY?
I BET THEY'RE SO TOUGH, NOBODY CAN HURT THEM!
WOULD THAT WERE SO, MY ANGEL.
THE CRUELEST HURTS ARE OFTEN THE ONES HIDDEN INSIDE US.
BUT HURT THEY'LL BE, AND SLAIN AS WELL, IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING.
NANNY, THEY'RE NOT CHILDREN, THEY'RE ALL GROWED UP!
SILLY BOY, THEY ONLY LOOK THAT WAY.
AND NANNY CAN FIX THAT.
LIKE NANNY FIXES EVERYTHING.

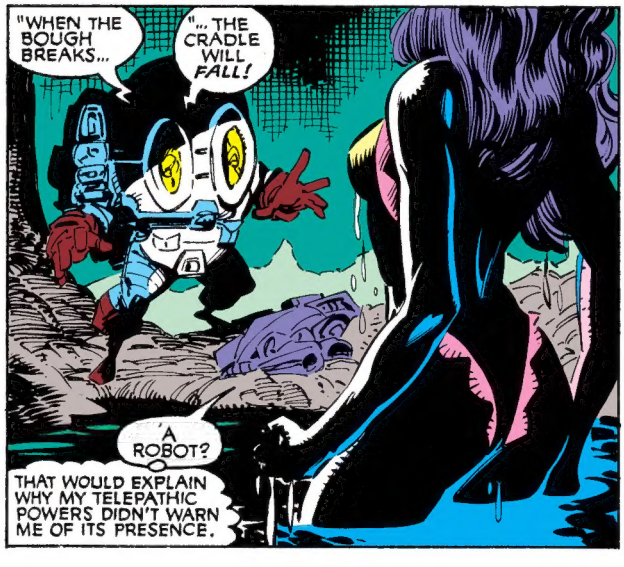
"THE X-MEN ARE IN DEADLY DANGER...
"... AND WHETHER THEY WANT US TO OR NOT--

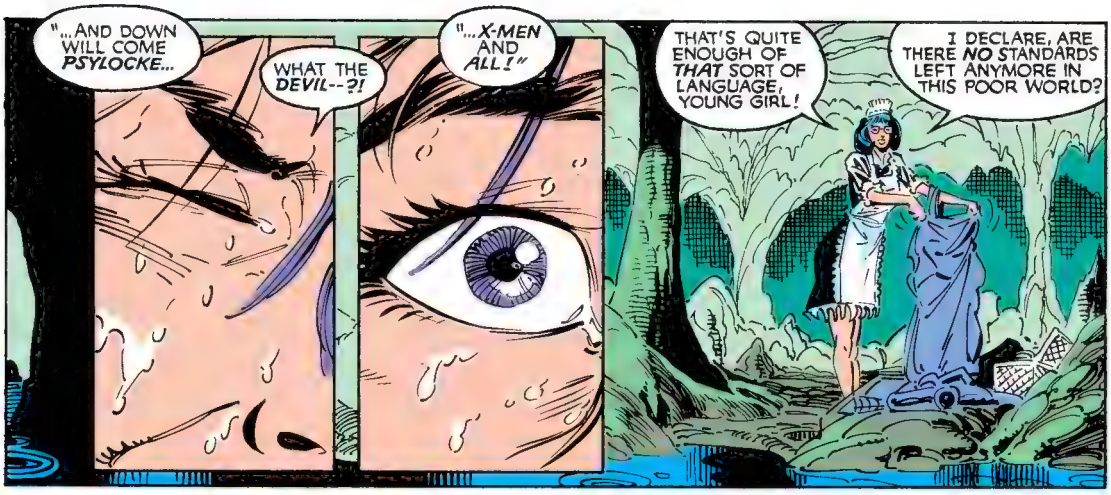

--WE ARE GOING TO SAVE THEM.
HOW?!
WE CAN'T EVEN SEE 'EM ON OUR TV'S!
DON'T POUT, DEAR, IT'S RUDE.
FASCINATING. I KNOW THEY'RE ABOUT, I SAW THEM WHEN I MADE MY PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE.
YET THEY APPEAR COMPLETELY "CLOAKED" FROM ALL FORMS OF ELECTRONIC DETECTION.
MAYBE THEN, THIS ISN'T SUCH A GREAT IDEA, NANNY.

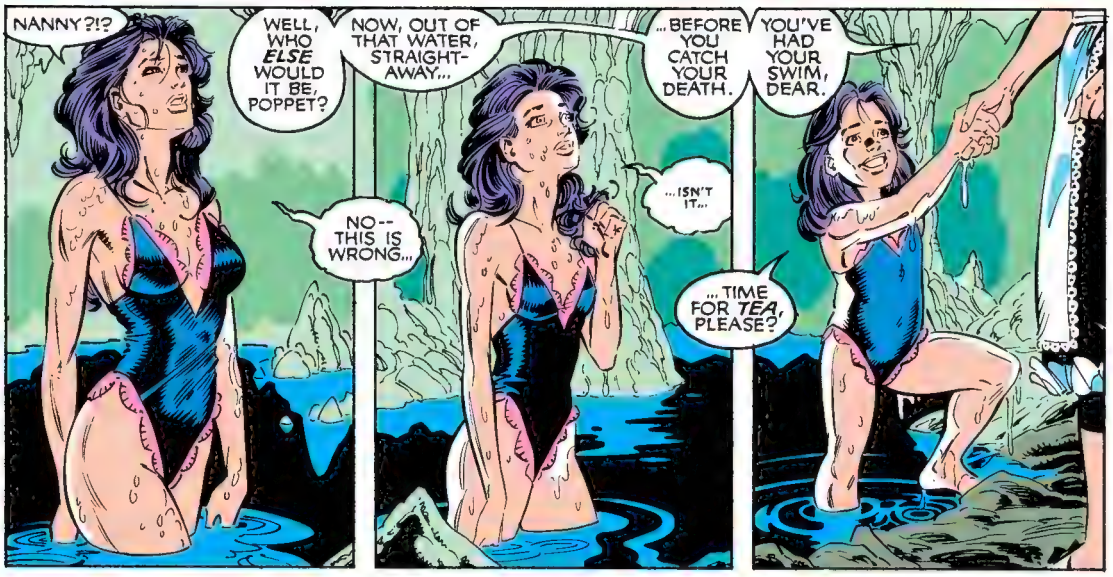
OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH.
CHALLENGES ARE SET BEFORE US, DEAR HEART...

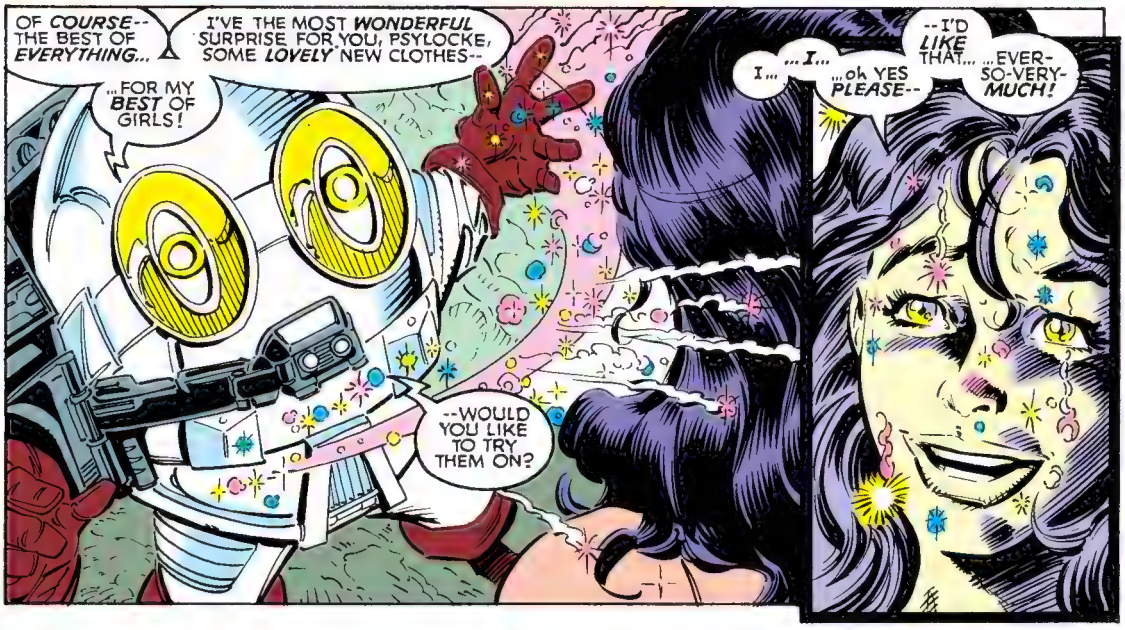

"... THAT WE MAY RISE ABOVE THEM."
"ROCK-A-BYE BABY...
"... IN THE TREE-TOP.

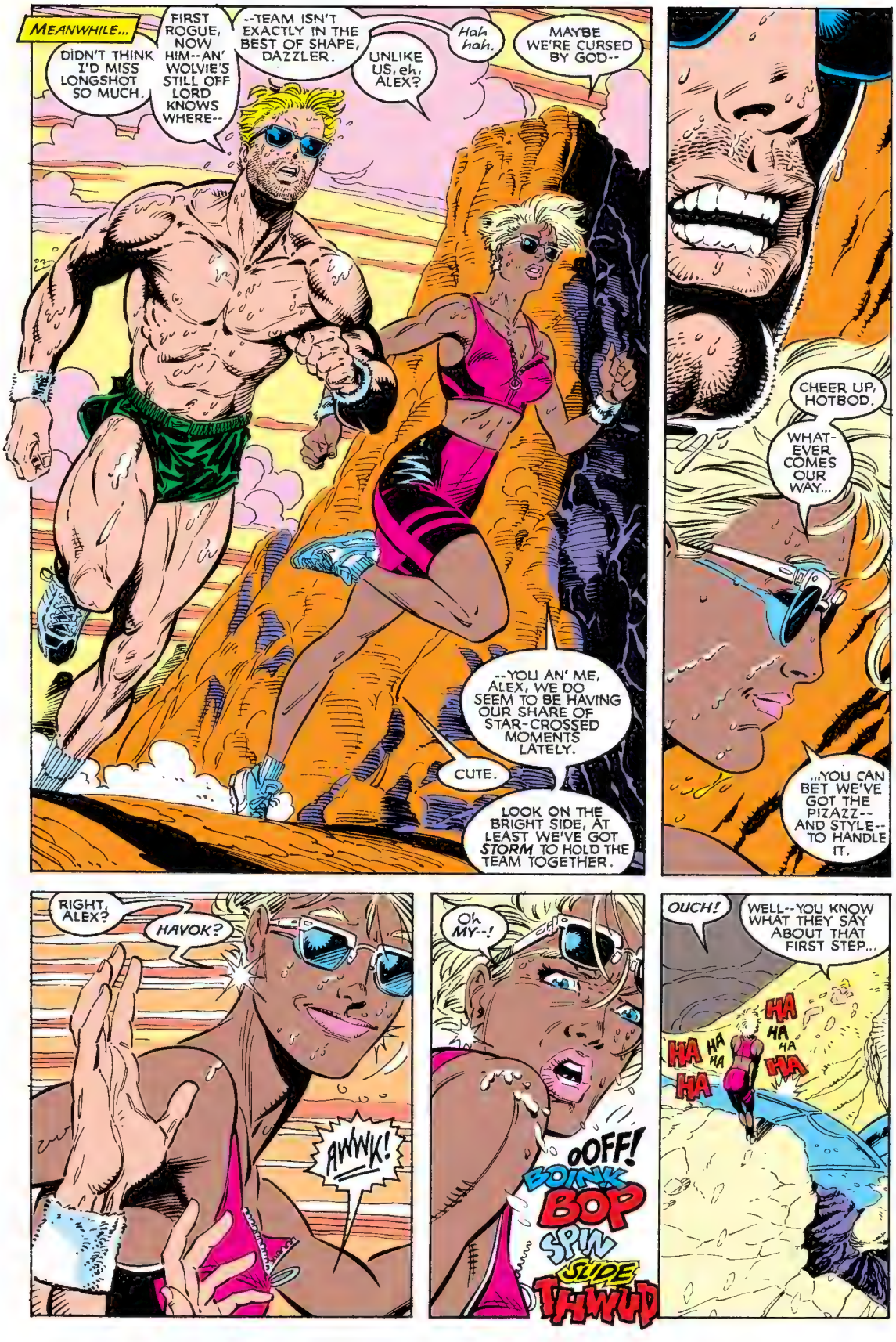

" WHEN THE WIND BLOWS...
"... THE CRADLE WILL ROCK.
INTRUDER!

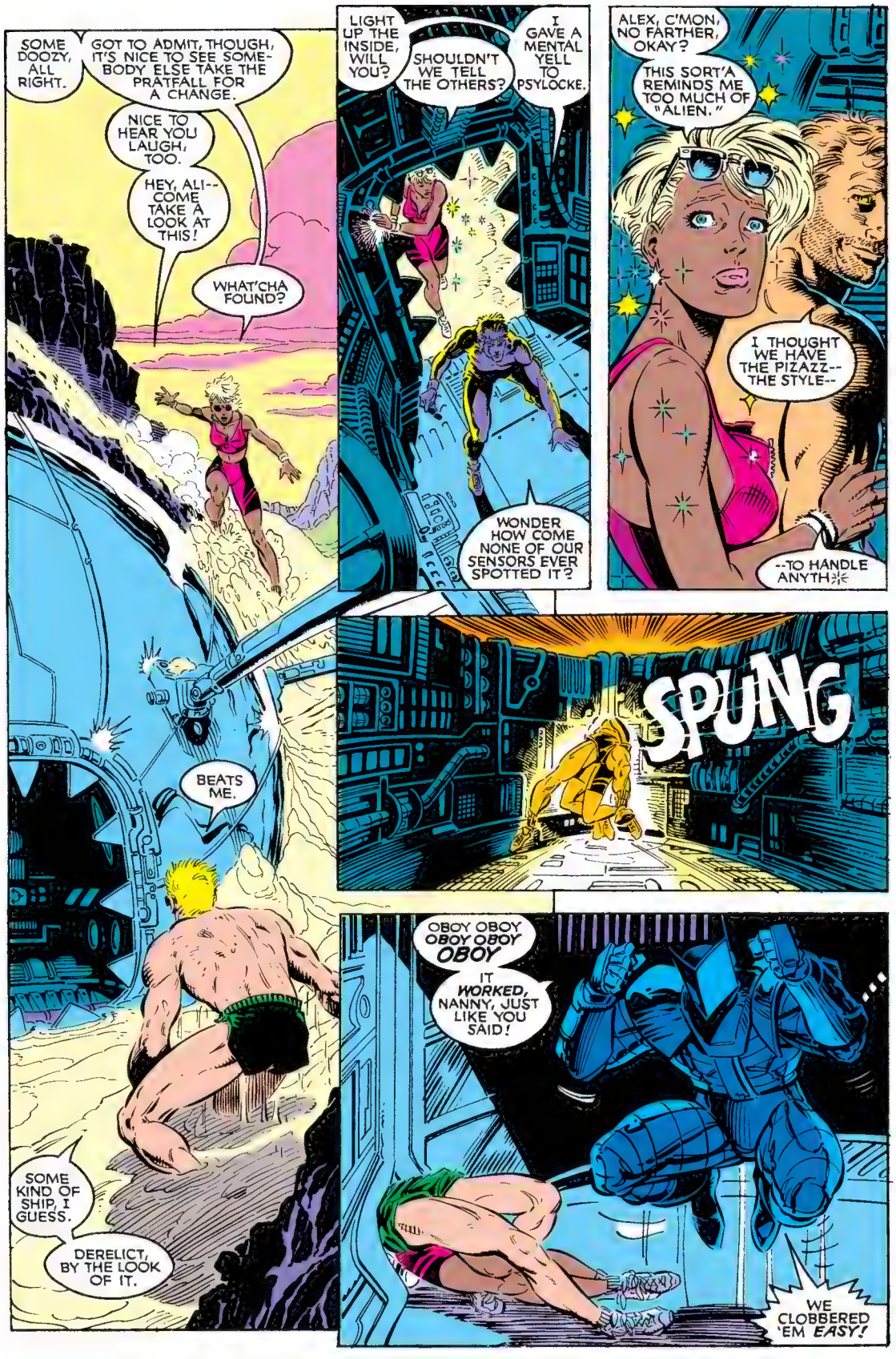

"WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS...
"... THE CRADLE WILL FALL!
A ROBOT?
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY MY TELEPATHIC POWERS DIDN'T WARN ME OF ITS PRESENCE.

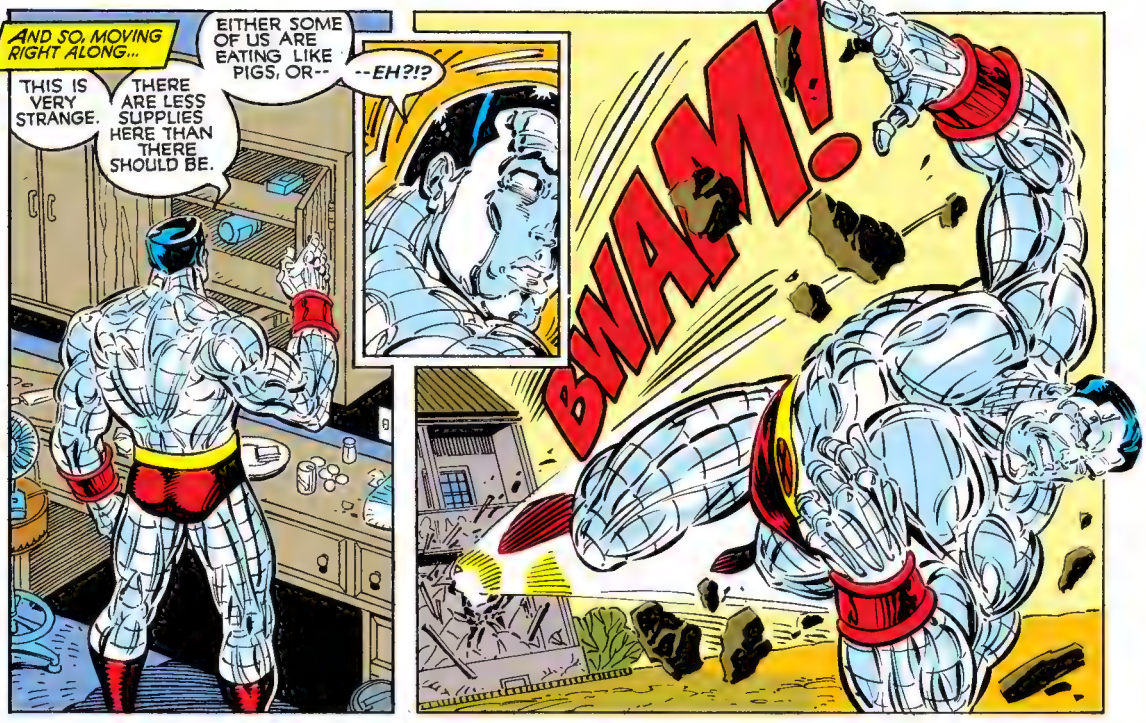

"...AND DOWN WILL COME PSYLOCKE...
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!
"...X-MEN AND ALL!"
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH OF THAT SORT OF LANGUAGE, YOUNG GIRL!
I DECLARE, ARE THERE NO STANDARDS LEFT ANYMORE IN THIS POOR WORLD?

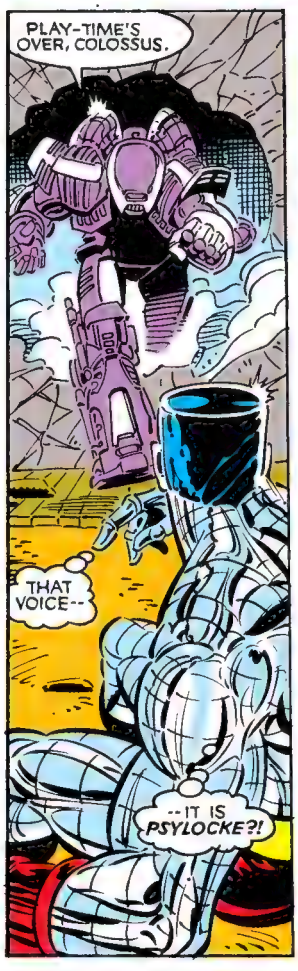

NANNY?!?
WELL, WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE, POPPET?
NOW, OUT OF THAT WATER, STRAIGHT-AWAY...
NO-- THIS IS WRONG...
...BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR DEATH.
...ISN'T IT...
YOU'VE HAD YOUR SWIM, DEAR.
...TIME FOR TEA, PLEASE?


OF COURSE-- THE BEST OF EVERYTHING...
I'VE THE MOST WONDERFUL SURPRISE FOR YOU, PSYLOCKE, SOME LOVELY NEW CLOTHES--
...FOR MY BEST OF GIRLS!
--WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY THEM ON?
I...
...I...
...oh YES PLEASE--
--I'D LIKE THAT...
...EVER-SO-VERY-MUCH!

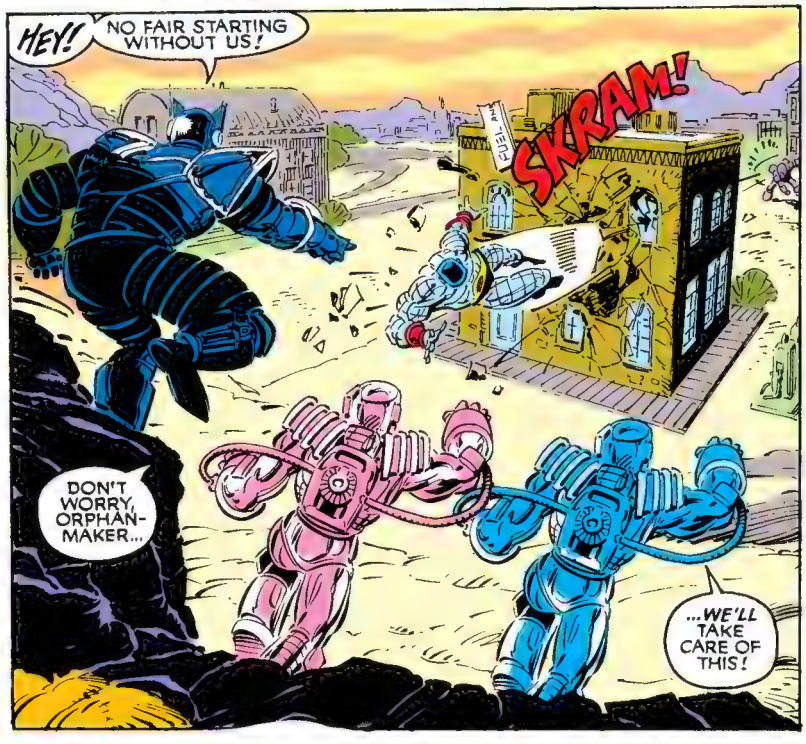

MEANWHILE...
DIDN'T THINK I'D MISS LONGSHOT SO MUCH.
FIRST ROGUE, NOW HIM--AN' WOLVIE'S STILL OFF LORD KNOWS WHERE--
--TEAM ISN'T EXACTLY IN THE BEST OF SHAPE, DAZZLER.
UNLIKE US, eh, ALEX?
Hah hah.
MAYBE WE'RE CURSED BY GOD--
--YOU AN' ME, ALEX, WE DO SEEM TO BE HAVING OUR SHARE OF STAR-CROSSED MOMENTS LATELY.
CUTE.
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, AT LEAST WE'VE GOT STORM TO HOLD THE TEAM TOGETHER.
CHEER UP, HOTBOD.
WHAT-EVER COMES OUR WAY...
...YOU CAN BET WE'VE GOT THE PIZAZZ--AND STYLE--TO HANDLE IT.
RIGHT, ALEX?
HAVOK?
AWWK!
Oh MY--!
oOFF!
BOINK
BOP
SPIN
SLIDE
THWUD
OUCH!
WELL--YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THAT FIRST STEP...
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA

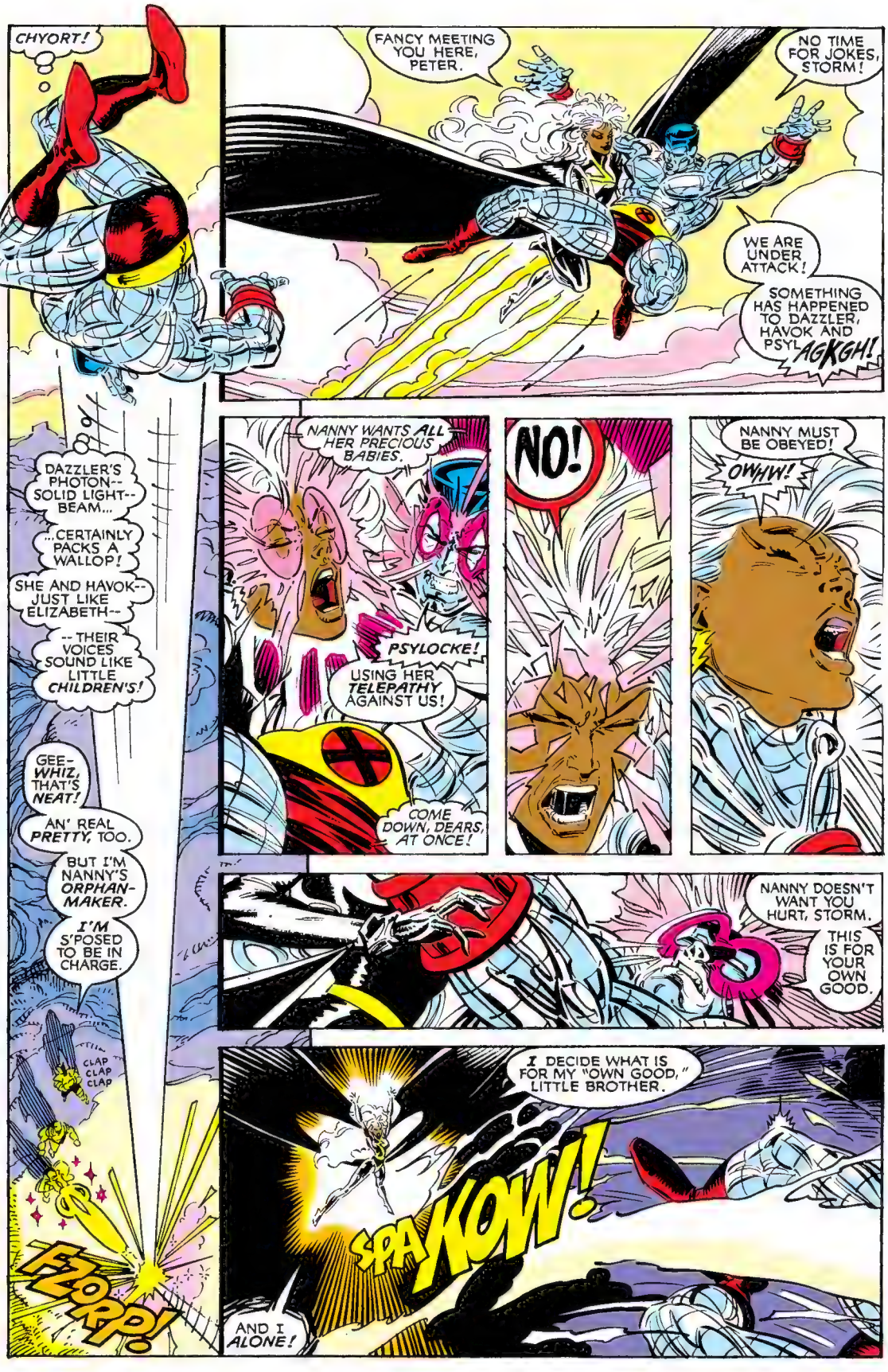

SOME DOOZY, ALL RIGHT.
GOT TO ADMIT, THOUGH, IT'S NICE TO SEE SOMEBODY ELSE TAKE THE PRATFALL FOR A CHANGE.
NICE TO HEAR YOU LAUGH, TOO.
HEY, ALI-- COME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT'CHA FOUND?
LIGHT UP THE INSIDE, WILL YOU?
SHOULDN'T WE TELL THE OTHERS?
I GAVE A MENTAL YELL TO PSYLOCKE.
WONDER HOW COME NONE OF OUR SENSORS EVER SPOTTED IT?
ALEX, C'MON, NO FARTHER, OKAY?
THIS SORT'A REMINDS ME TOO MUCH OF "ALIEN."
I THOUGHT WE HAVE THE PIZAZZ-- THE STYLE--
--TO HANDLE ANYTH
SPUNG
BEATS ME.
SOME KIND OF SHIP, I GUESS.
DERELICT, BY THE LOOK OF IT.
OBOY OBOY OBOY OBOY OBOY
IT WORKED, NANNY, JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
WE CLOBBERED 'EM EASY!

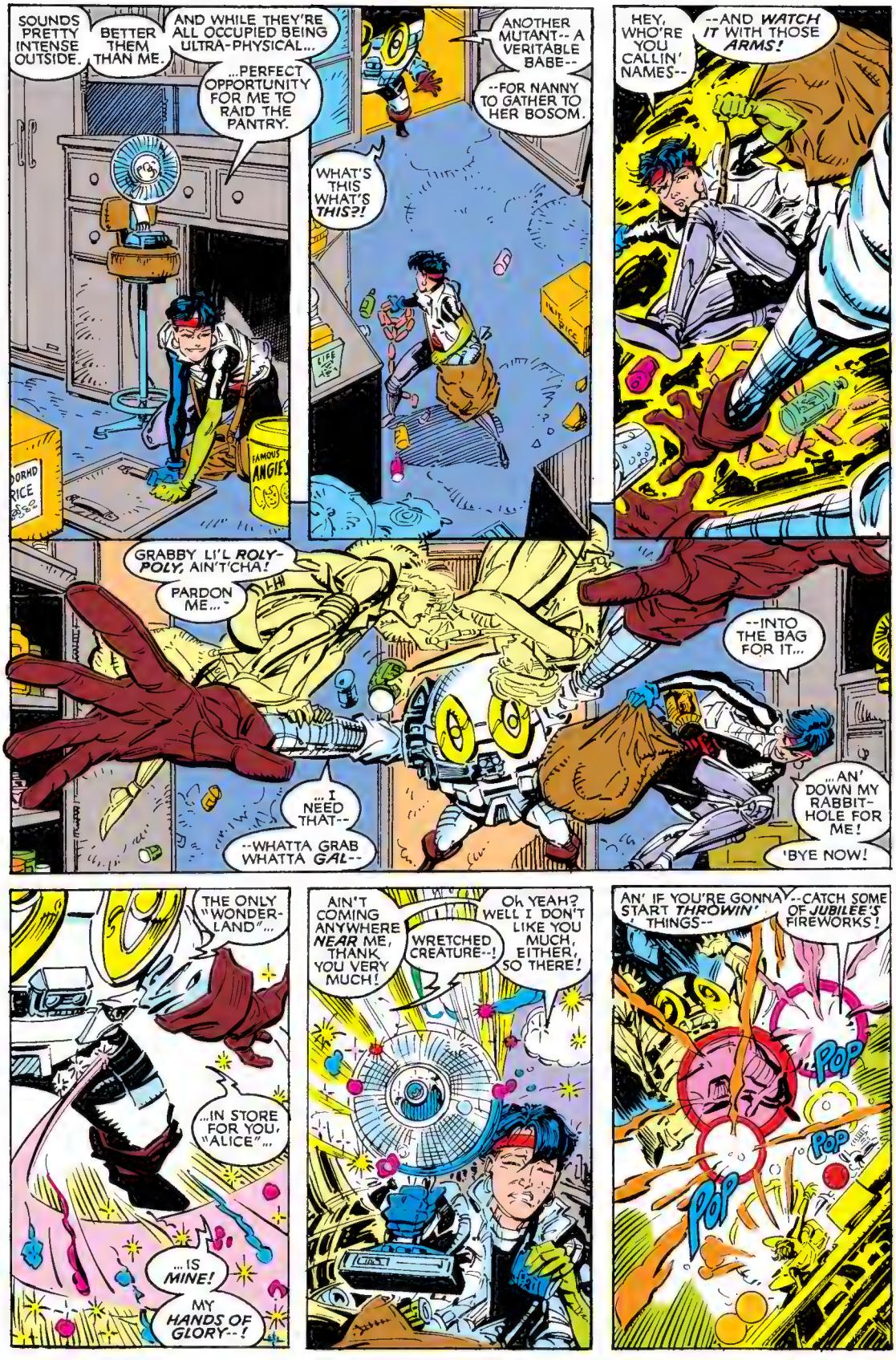

AND SO, MOVING RIGHT ALONG...
THIS IS VERY STRANGE.
THERE ARE LESS SUPPLIES HERE THAN THERE SHOULD BE.
EITHER SOME OF US ARE EATING LIKE PIGS, OR--
--EH?!?
BWAM!

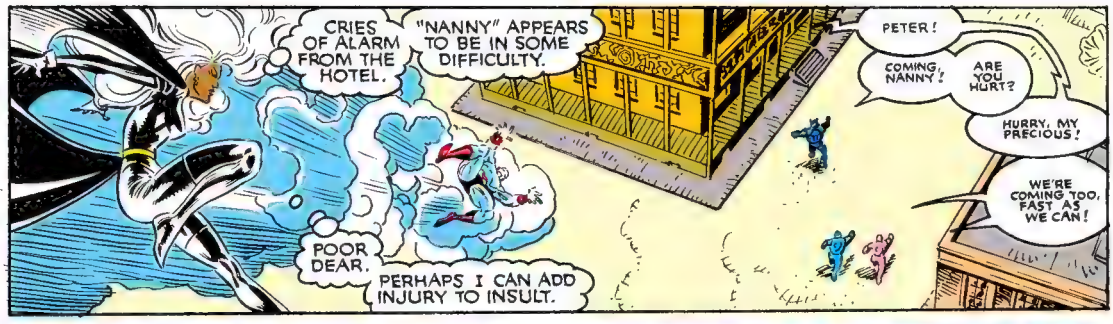

PLAY-TIME'S OVER, COLOSSUS.
THAT VOICE--
--IT IS PSYLOCKE?!

TIME TO JOIN NANNY!
ARMORED GRIP--
--STRONGER THAN MINE!

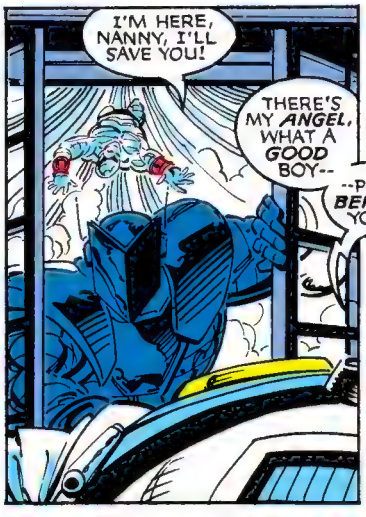

HEY!
NO FAIR STARTING WITHOUT US!
SKRAM!
DON'T WORRY, ORPHAN-MAKER...
...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!

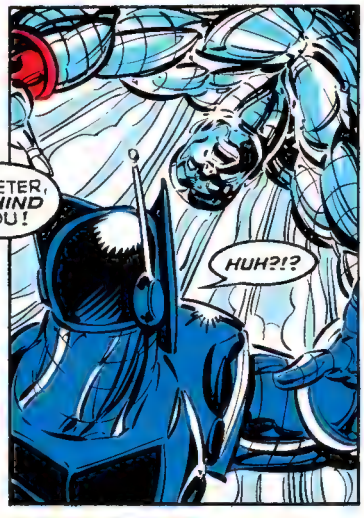

CHYORT!
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, PETER.
NO TIME FOR JOKES, STORM!
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO DAZZLER, HAVOK AND PSYL
AGKGH!
DAZZLER'S PHOTON--SOLID LIGHT--BEAM...
...CERTAINLY PACKS A WALLOP!
SHE AND HAVOK--JUST LIKE ELIZABETH--
-- THEIR VOICES SOUND LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN'S!
GEE-WHIZ, THAT'S NEAT!
AN' REAL PRETTY, TOO.
BUT I'M NANNY'S ORPHAN-MAKER.
I'M S'POSED TO BE IN CHARGE.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
FZORP!
NANNY WANTS ALL HER PRECIOUS BABIES.
PSYLOCKE!
USING HER TELEPATHY AGAINST US!
COME DOWN, DEARS, AT ONCE!
NO!
NANNY MUST BE OBEYED!
OWHW!
NANNY DOESN'T WANT YOU HURT, STORM.
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
I DECIDE WHAT IS FOR MY "OWN GOOD," LITTLE BROTHER.
SPAKOW!
AND I ALONE!

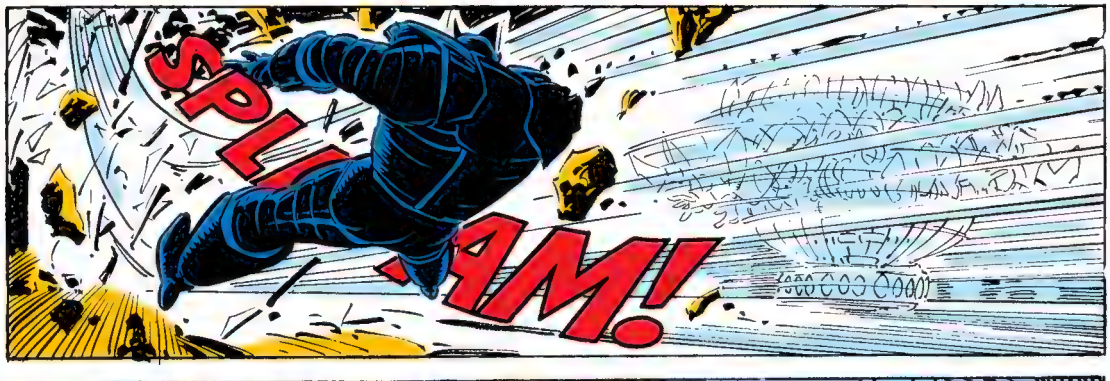

SOUNDS PRETTY INTENSE OUTSIDE.
BETTER THEM THAN ME.
AND WHILE THEY'RE ALL OCCUPIED BEING ULTRA-PHYSICAL...
...PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO RAID THE PANTRY.
FAMOUS ANGIE'S
ANOTHER MUTANT-- A VERITABLE BABE--
--FOR NANNY TO GATHER TO HER BOSOM.
WHAT'S THIS WHAT'S THIS?!
HEY, WHO'RE YOU CALLIN' NAMES--
--AND WATCH IT WITH THOSE ARMS!
GRABBY LI'L ROLY-POLY, AIN'T'CHA!
PARDON ME...
--INTO THE BAG FOR IT...
...I NEED THAT--
--WHATTA GRAB WHATTA GAL--
...AN' DOWN MY RABBIT-HOLE FOR ME!
'BYE NOW!
THE ONLY "WONDER-LAND"...
...IN STORE FOR YOU, "ALICE"...
...IS MINE!
MY HANDS OF GLORY--!
AIN'T COMING ANYWHERE NEAR ME, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WRETCHED CREATURE--!
Oh YEAH? WELL I DON'T LIKE YOU MUCH, EITHER, SO THERE!
AN' IF YOU'RE GONNA START THROWIN' THINGS--
--CATCH SOME OF JUBILEE'S FIREWORKS!
POP
POP
POP

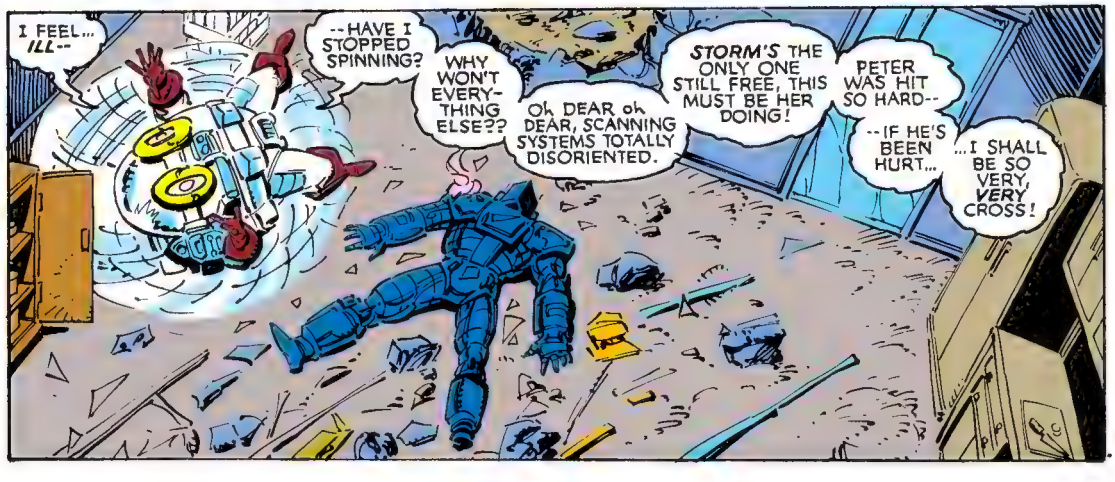

CRIES OF ALARM FROM THE HOTEL.
"NANNY" APPEARS TO BE IN SOME DIFFICULTY.
PETER!
COMING, NANNY!
ARE YOU HURT?
HURRY, MY PRECIOUS!
WE'RE COMING TOO, FAST AS WE CAN!
POOR DEAR.
PERHAPS I CAN ADD INJURY TO INSULT.

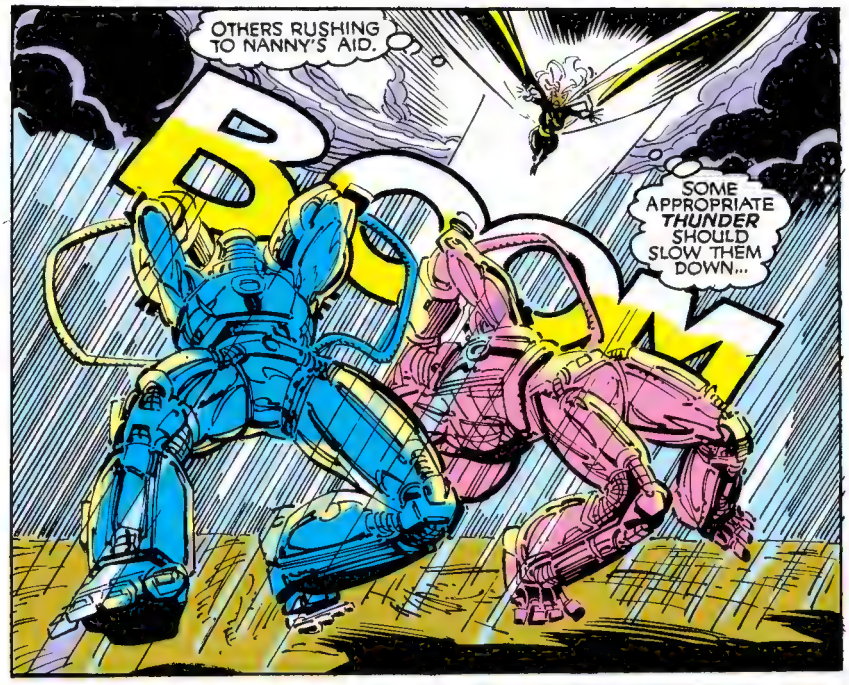
OH THE INDIGNITY!
THOSE "FIREWORKS"-- MULTI-STATE ENERGY PLASMOIDS--
--DAMAGED MY ROCKET BACKPACK.
I CAN'T RIGHT MYSELF.


I'M HERE, NANNY, I'LL SAVE YOU!
THERE'S MY ANGEL, WHAT A GOOD BOY--
--PETER, BEHIND YOU!

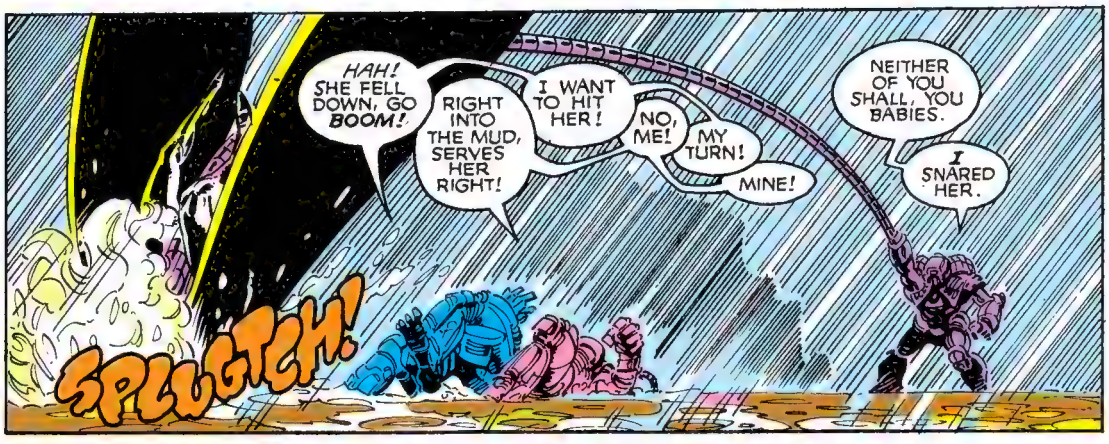

HUH?!?


SPLI
AM!


I FEEL... ILL--
--HAVE I STOPPED SPINNING?
WHY WON'T EVERY-THING ELSE??
OH DEAR OH DEAR, SCANNING SYSTEMS TOTALLY DISORIENTED.
STORM'S THE ONLY ONE STILL FREE, THIS MUST BE HER DOING!
PETER WAS HIT SO HARD--
--IF HE'S BEEN HURT...
...I SHALL BE SO VERY, VERY CROSS!

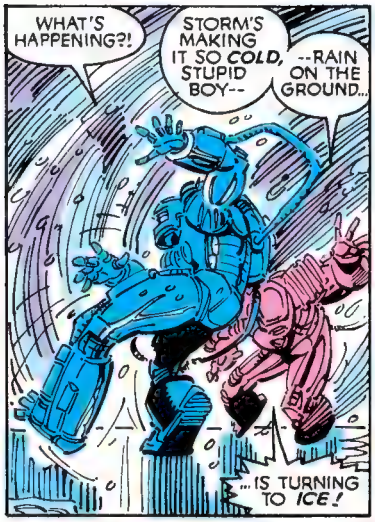

OTHERS RUSHING TO NANNY'S AID.
BOOM
SOME APPROPRIATE THUNDER SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN...

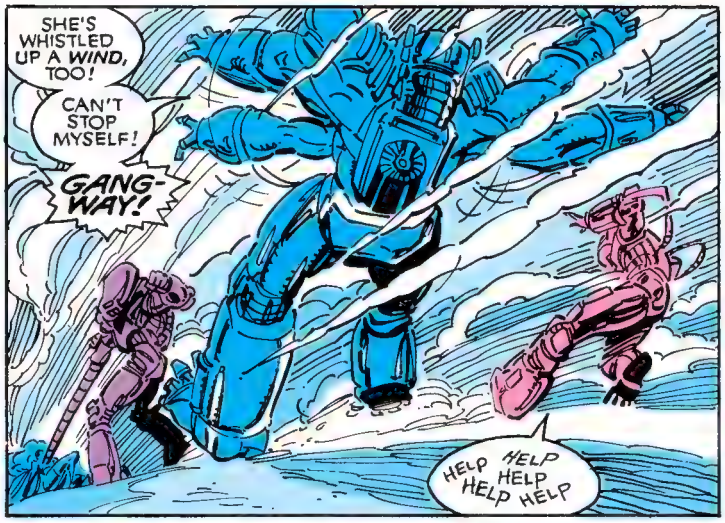
... TILL I CAN HOPEFULLY SORT OUT FRIEND FROM F--
OH!?!
GRAB!

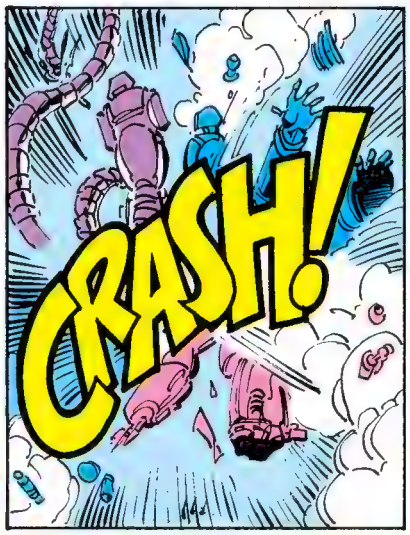

HAH! SHE FELL DOWN, GO BOOM!
RIGHT INTO THE MUD, SERVES HER RIGHT!
I WANT TO HIT HER!
NO, ME!
MY TURN!
MINE!
NEITHER OF YOU SHALL, YOU BABIES.
I SNARED HER.
SPLUTCH!

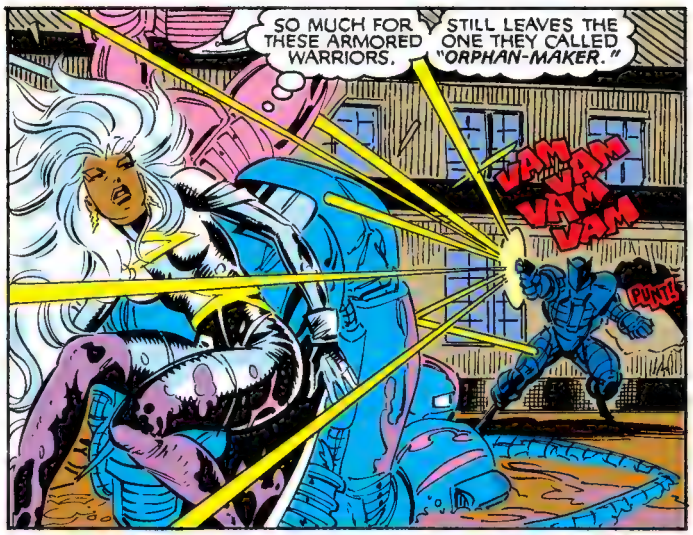
I GET TO FINISH HER!
ANOTHER PSIONIC ASSAULT.
TRYING TO BREAK DOWN MY SENSE OF SELF.

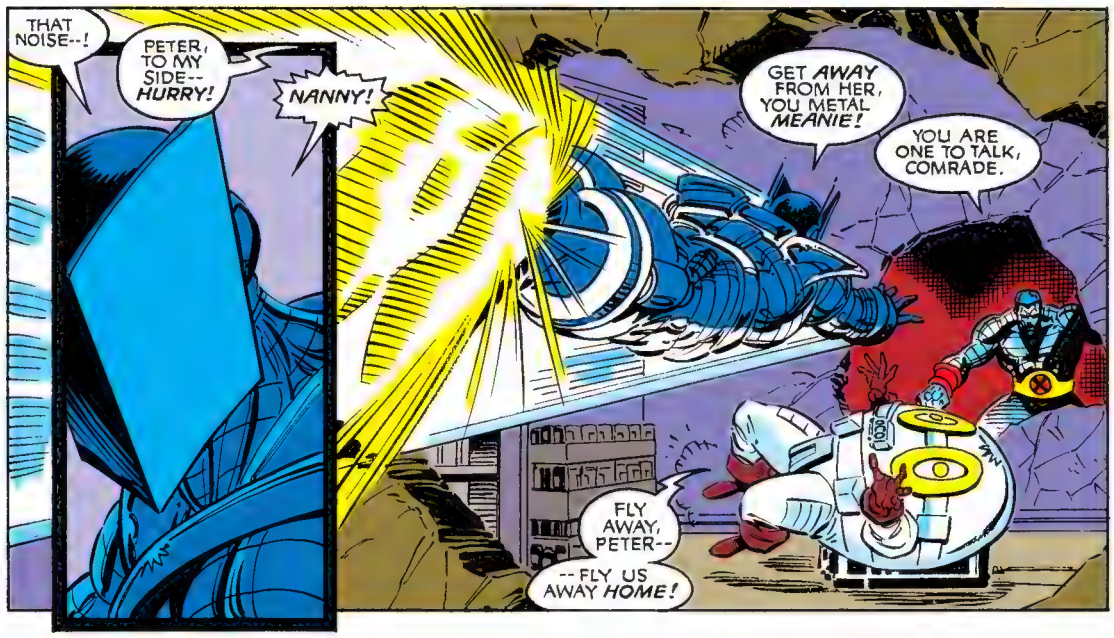
REDUCE ME, IN MY OWN MIND...
... TO A CHILDHOOD STATE...
...TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THIS "NANNY" PERSON.
PSYLOCKE-- TOO POWERFUL--
-- CANNOT WITHSTAND... FOR LONG--!


WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
STORM'S MAKING IT SO COLD, STUPID BOY--
--RAIN ON THE GROUND...
...IS TURNING TO ICE!


SHE'S WHISTLED UP A WIND, TOO!
CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
GANG-WAY!
HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP


CRASH!


SO MUCH FOR THESE ARMORED WARRIORS.
STILL LEAVES THE ONE THEY CALLED "ORPHAN-MAKER."
VAM VAM VAM VAM
PUNT!


THAT NOISE--!
PETER, TO MY SIDE-- HURRY!
NANNY!
GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU METAL MEANIE!
YOU ARE ONE TO TALK, COMRADE.
FLY AWAY, PETER--
--FLY US AWAY HOME!

Bullpen Bulletins

Quote of the Month

"Just in time! I couldn't have taken another panel of this unrequited love bull!"

—Rumba
POWER PACHYDERMS #1

Stan's Soapbox

Hi, True Believers! The time hath come for a little soul-searching as we tackle a subject that concerns us all.

Years ago, some peole looked down their noses at those who created or read comic books. Comics were thought of in the same light as we think of fast foods today. They were perceived as light entertainment with no real nourishment.

Even today, I'll occasionally hear someone give comics a bad rap, usually someone who hasn't read them in years. Well, in case you encounter the same type of comments, here's a little something you can run past your critic...

What are comics? They're stories, told in words and pictures. Are some not as well-written as others? Perhaps. There are also novels, plays and movies which aren't as well-written as others. But are some comic books written with great skill and integrity? Of course. Are some beautifully illustrated? Just take a look! Are they worthwhile? Bet on it! Since when has the written word coupled with illustration not been worthwhile?

Now, here's the clincher. Let's say Michaelangelo and Shakespeare are alive today and collaborate on a comic book. People would fight for a copy, right? Obviously, there's nothing wrong with telling a story using script and illustration. Just as with any other art form, everything depends on doing it well.

At Marvel, we try to do it well.
Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM: We Marvelites just can't sit still! Case in point: just last month in this space we told you about our brand-spanking-new Editorial Administration Pool members. Well, Mystical *Marie Javins* has gone and gotten promoted since then! Yup, the upwardly mobile Ms. J is now Marvelous *Margaret Clark*'s assistant editor! Congrats, Marie!

Filling the void is Delightful *Dawn Heermance*, who will serve as secretary to Magnanimous *Mark Gruenwald* and Adventurous *Archie Goodwin*. Welcome, Dawn!

ITEM: And speaking of mobility, things have been kind of crazy--okay, *especially* crazy--here at Mighty Marvel the past few weeks. We've been playing that madcap corporate game known as "Musical Offices"! Ready to play, kids?

Margaret Clark moved to *Carl Potts*'s office, who moved to *Archie Goodwin*'s office, who moved to *Sid Jacobson*'s office, who moved to *Don Perlin*'s office, found himself and his art-correcting Raiders way off in the southwest corner of the 10th floor, next to *John Romita Sr.*, who switched offices with *Bobbie Chase*! Whew!

If you think that sounds confusing, True Believer, you're right! In fact, if we had a nickel for every time someone went to the wrong office around here, we could probably afford to send out our comics for free!

ITEM: The Marvel family got a little bigger recently, as MOON KNIGHT penciler *Sal Velluto* and his wife *Sharon* welcomed their first child into this big, brassy world; *Alexander Mario Velluto* was born March 28. Congratulations to the new parents, and a hearty hello to Alexander, the lucky little devil! After all, how many kids can say, "My dad works for Marvel Comics"?

Pro File: Kelly P. Corvese

Assistant Editor on: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, THE 'NAM, THE JOB, and TRANSFORMERS

Marvel freelance credits (past): Editing the SPEEDBALL letters page (collect them all!), typing numerous PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL scripts for *Carl Potts*.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Can I get back to you on this one?

My place of birth is: Providence, Rhode Island.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: My brother Jody.

My hobbies are: Working out (I bench press way more than bullpenner *Harry Candelario*), jogging, playing with Domino my cat, reading all kinds of novels, and drawing all the time.

My pet peeves are: People with maids ('till I get one), compressed air cans when manned by *Dwight Coye*, all the extra furniture that *Don* packs in our office, and Lynda Evans's hair.

My favorite performers are: Tom Hanks, Glenn Close, Bette Midler, "Jane" the Monitor, Tracy Ullman, the entire cast of *Lost in Space*, my brother Perry as the entire cast of *Lost in Space*, and of course Lindsay Wagner.

The last good books I read were: *I Was a Teenage Couch Potato* by Steven Scott Wilson, and *Do-It-Yourself Home Repairs* by John Steinmetz.

The last good movie I saw was: In a crowded theater, with a butter-soaked floor, and some guy behind me passed out, I think he was diabetic.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Me! I've been studying the part for years.

My oddest habit is: *Days of Our Lives, General Hospital, Dynasty...*

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Graduating from the Swedish Institute and passing the New York state boards for a license in massage therapy.

The reason I got into comics was: Something about re-shaping the minds and ideas of our nation's youth to ensure future prosperity. (And I wanted to bump *Jim DiGiovanna's*™ Pro File off the Bullpen Bulletins page!)

The biggest influences on my work include: Klaus Janson, George Perez, Christopher Ivy, Tom DeFalco, Don Daley, and my dad.

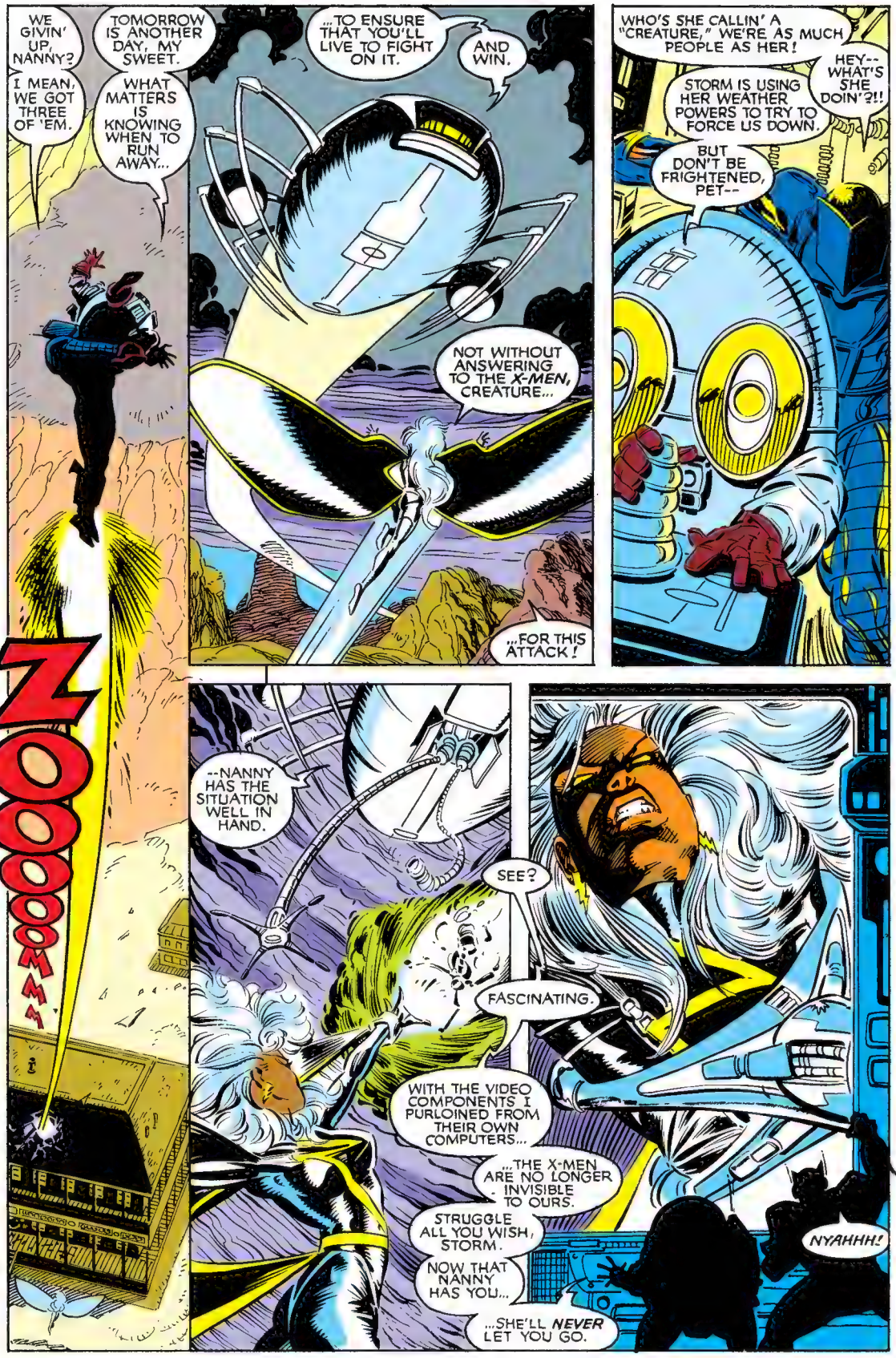
The single work of which I am most proud is: My lovely wife Catherine and our two children, Anthony (2) and Elizabeth (1)...(Just seeing if you were paying attention.)

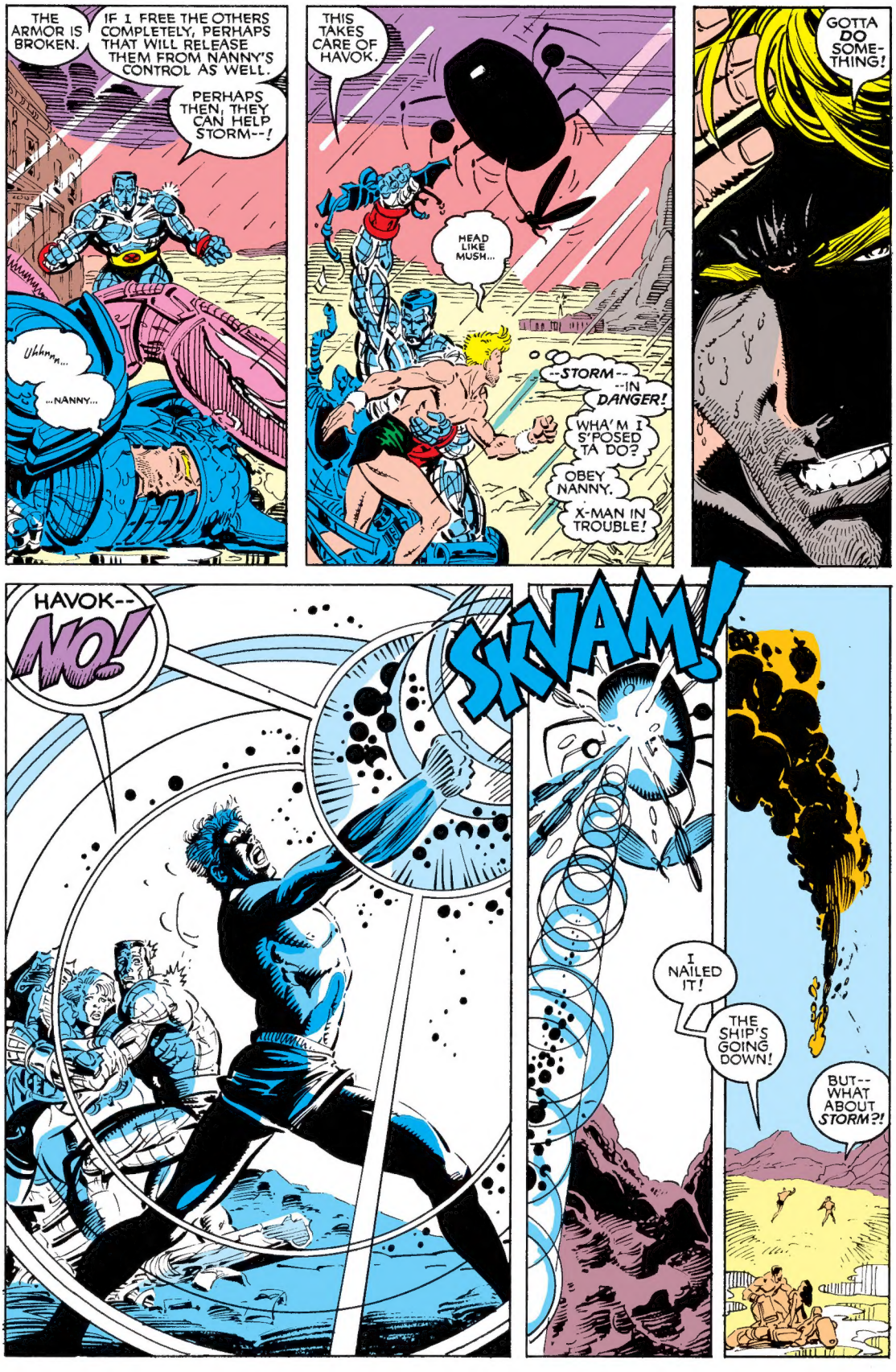
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Going to be fulfilled.

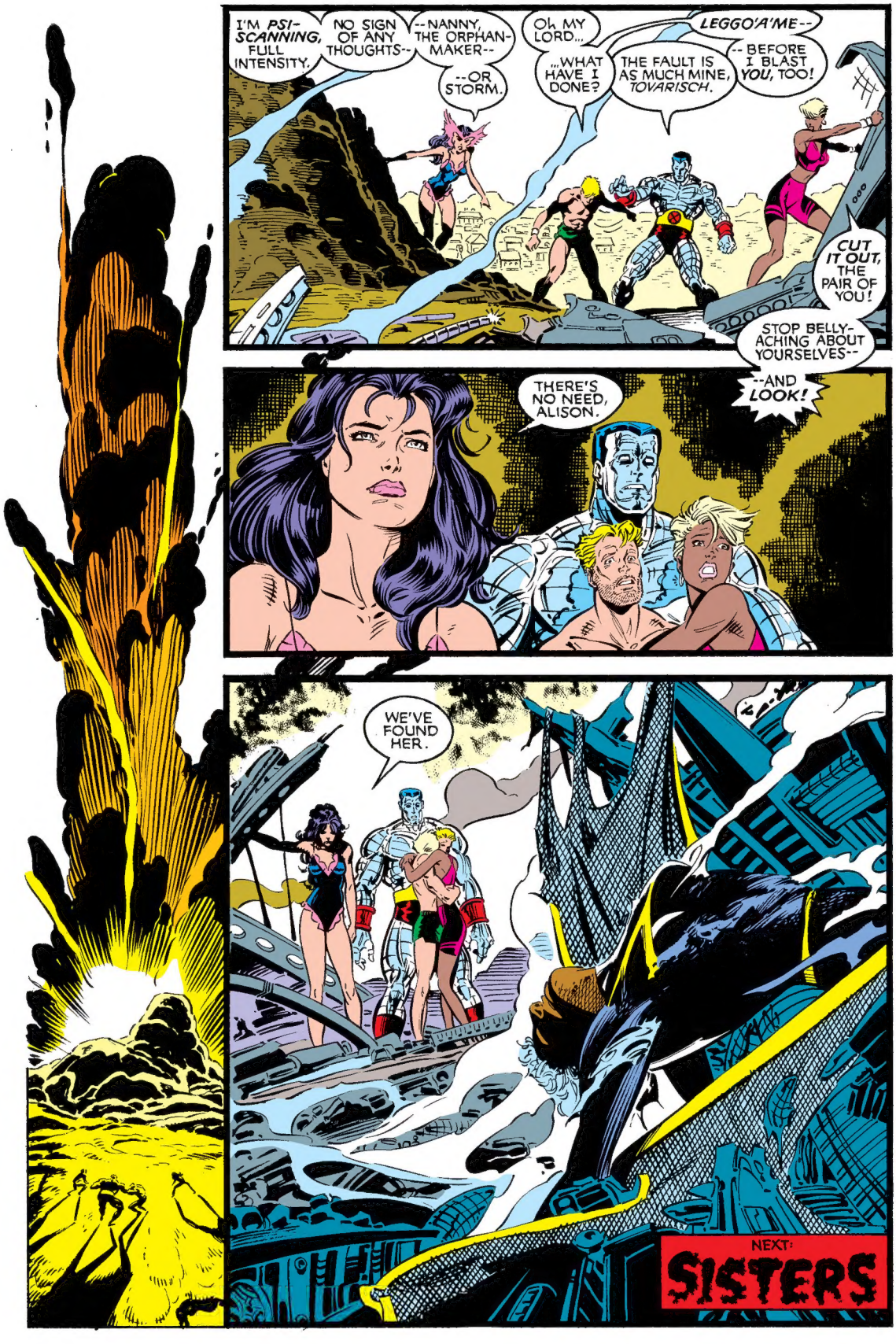
The worst part of my job is: Always missing lunch with *Chris I., Chris A.*, and *Mindy*.

When nobody's looking I like to: Talk in sign language, but no one seems to hear me.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I've always believed you can have anything in life as long as you want it badly enough and work hard enough to get it.


WE GIVIN' UP, NANNY?
I MEAN, WE GOT THREE OF 'EM.
TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY, MY SWEET.
WHAT MATTERS IS KNOWING WHEN TO RUN AWAY...
...TO ENSURE THAT YOU'LL LIVE TO FIGHT ON IT.
AND WIN.
NOT WITHOUT ANSWERING TO THE X-MEN, CREATURE...
...FOR THIS ATTACK!
WHO'S SHE CALLIN' A "CREATURE," WE'RE AS MUCH PEOPLE AS HER!
HEY-- WHAT'S SHE DOIN'?!!
STORM IS USING HER WEATHER POWERS TO TRY TO FORCE US DOWN.
BUT DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, PET--
NOOOOOMM
--NANNY HAS THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND.
SEE?
FASCINATING.
WITH THE VIDEO COMPONENTS I PURLOINED FROM THEIR OWN COMPUTERS...
...THE X-MEN ARE NO LONGER INVISIBLE TO OURS.
STRUGGLE ALL YOU WISH, STORM.
NOW THAT NANNY HAS YOU...
...SHE'LL NEVER LET YOU GO.
NYAHHH!


THE ARMOR IS BROKEN.
IF I FREE THE OTHERS COMPLETELY, PERHAPS THAT WILL RELEASE THEM FROM NANNY'S CONTROL AS WELL.
PERHAPS THEN, THEY CAN HELP STORM--!
Uhhnnn...
...NANNY...
THIS TAKES CARE OF HAVOK.
HEAD LIKE MUSH...
--STORM-- --IN DANGER!
WHA'M I S'POSED TA DO?
OBEY NANNY.
X-MAN IN TROUBLE!
GOTTA DO SOME-THING!
HAVOK--
NO!
SKVAM!
I NAILED IT!
THE SHIP'S GOING DOWN!
BUT--WHAT ABOUT STORM?!


I'M PSI-SCANNING, FULL INTENSITY.
NO SIGN OF ANY THOUGHTS--
--NANNY, THE ORPHAN-MAKER--
--OR STORM.
OH, MY LORD...
...WHAT HAVE I DONE?
THE FAULT IS AS MUCH MINE, TOVARISCH.
LEGGO'A'ME--
-- BEFORE I BLAST YOU, TOO!
CUT IT OUT, THE PAIR OF YOU!
STOP BELLY-ACHING ABOUT YOURSELVES--
--AND LOOK!
THERE'S NO NEED, ALISON.
WE'VE FOUND HER.
NEXT:
SISTERS

BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assistant editor

X-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP—
387 Park Avenue South—New York, New York—10016
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Marvel,

Very few issues urge me to write you, but issue #241 was too overwhelming to avoid. The artwork and story were spectacular (which more than makes up for the shallow, cold, and 2-dimensional issue last month—no offense!)! It was obvious that humor was intended, and I loved it! Each X-Man got his time in the spotlight, and Rogue (my favorite character of all time!) was finally treated as she should be. Even the demons knew it! ("Soul onna skunk hair"—"Sucker bet, 'seen her fight"-Great!!) _____ Rogue blocked that fatal shrapnel that surely would've finished Storm, and the way she flew, all invulnerable and such—it was breathtaking!

Thank you for hurting Psylocke. Her English majesty would be an ideal voodoo doll. Trust me, I'd buy plenty of pins and needles!

Madelyn never looked better (but after Rogue finished off Scalphunter, you could tell he's seen better days. Good goin' girl!)! The way Jean/Maddy looked as a child as she held her dying friend in her arms (p. 15, first panel) was nicely done.

It's about time the X-Men let loose!

Rogue lovers unite! (Any Rogue lovers looking for pen pals?)

Until a whole issue of the X-Men is published showing Rogue with her white stripe in her hair all the time (colorist take note—love ya' by the way), make mine Marvel!

P.S. why is that no-good Havok on the upper left hand box and not Rogue?! Hiss! Boo! Keep smilin'!

James LaRosa
26 Windham Rd.
H.P., MA 02136

Umm, well, James . . . we hope you're still speaking to us after what happened to Rogue in issue #247. It's not that we don't miss the kid or anything . . . we just hope you're able to deal with it. And since you seem to be *such* a Psylocke fan, we advise you to keep waiting. The British X-Man is about to face the challenge of her life.

X-people,

You know, I really love you guys, but sometimes, you make me really angry. I, for one, wish you'd get over this demon thing. I like the idea of Inferno and all, but I could do without all this demon stuff. Yeah, I know, it wouldn't work that way, but I'm sure getting sick of all this limbo stuff. So, do away with all these creepy demons and get on with it. And what you're doing to all my favorite characters emotionally is making me . . . mad.

There. Now I have some comments.

1.) Make Longshot funny again. Now he has perfect grammar, he understands human nature, and he's way too mature. I liked it when he was everyone's favorite character and produced nonstop laughs.

2.) Quit focusing so much on Wolvie and Storm. Give the others some attention.

3.) How about having Kitty, Kurt and Rachel stop by for a visit. I miss them.

Until Dazzler carries a flashlight (and even after that), MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!

Oscar Hansen
P.O. Box 68
Indiana, WA 98342

Um, well, James . . . we hope *you're* still speaking to us after Longshot's departure this very issue. But we won't be focusing so much on Storm, anymore . . .

Dear X-people,

So I was wrong. For one wild and woolly moment, after Destiny's utterings in X-factor #31 (and a few other dark hints), I really thought you were going to do it. Do what, you ask? Temporarily remove Jean Grey's powers and memory and send her back to the first September 2½ years ago (Marvel time), walking alive out of a crashed, blazing 747. After all, Jean has about 2½ years to spare (time spent in animation), and it would explain the almost indecent haste with which Scott married Maddie, and how she knew what his favorite breakfast was. It would also explain the hints about a spark of evil in Jean igniting Inferno—no sign of that: Maddie, yes; Jean, no—and why Jean is being drawn to Christopher (Nathan?!? I suppose you'll explain that sometime) as if he were her own baby. I'm not sure I actually liked the idea, but it certainly was exciting! Still, it didn't easily explain the little girl who was sick but got better, or the flashes of Phoenix around Maddie when Wolverine confirms that there is no trace of Phoenix in Jean (but I thought Rachel was now the Phoenix anyway?).

So you've gone for the obvious. Turn Maddie into a synthetic villain to get Scott off the hook and back with Jean. Shame on you! I'm surprised, too, after all the rumours that Chris really hated Cyclops and was going to make him look like a real heel by the end of Inferno. Don't get me wrong—me, I like Cyclops, but that doesn't mean I condone the way he behaved when Jean returned. That's why I was so excited by the prospect of a real release from this no-win eternal triangle, one which would leave Scott's honor intact and both Scott and Jean at peace. Simply blackening Maddie's character whatever her past, will not do this and will simply give Scott a get-out he doesn't deserve. Still, the hints in #240 regarding Maddie's long-shrouded origins were sufficiently intriguing to keep me hooked for another few issues!

Morag G. Kerr
6, Corfe Close
Southwater near Horsham
Sussex, England

Hey, Morag . . . no one here hates Cyclops, least of all Chris! As for Maddie . . . she's not exactly altogether gone. Check out current issues of X-FACTOR.

Bob,

Waitaminnit! I can almost buy Madelyne Pryor's revised origin from X-MEN #241 with some small exceptions . . . if she is a clone of Jean Grey who was cleverly planted in Scott Summers' life by Mister Sinister, how are you going to explain the supposed plane crash she walked away from the night Phoenix was destroyed on the moon? And if Madelyne was actually a clone of Jean Grey, why wouldn't Professor X have been able to sense the simularity in thoughts and past that the clone would probably share? And why would Logan not be able to detect that same similarity on a physical level?

Or, is this another red herring to steer us away from the truth of the matter until the end of this "Inferno"? I have to admit, as much as I dislike these kind of crossovers, this one has piqued my interest for three major reasons: first, the entire Jean Grey/Phoenix/Madelyn triangle; second, the Illyana/Darkchilds problem; and finally, the key player in all of this—who also seems to be the most under-stated, the infant son of Scott and Madelyne. I have a feeling that he is going to play an instrumental part in shaping the conclusion of this saga—might he be the human result of the Phoenix force?

The back-tracking of Madelyne's history has bothered me quite a bit considering how much you strained to make her a separate individual. This seems to dull some of her earlier validation to the series even if it does make for lively reading. And, it still leaves unexplained the little girl from AVENGERS ANNUAL #10, a stone that has yet to be turned. I can hardly believe it will be written off as a coincidence since those types of things just don't happen in the Claremont mythos.

"Inferno" has already had several good moments, and even though I still maintain it would have been better served without the crossovers into other series' continuity, I am happy to see it is addressing some of the lingering problems the X-books have been facing for some time.

Thomas Long
3644A Arsenal
St. Louis, MO 63116

That's right, Thomas, there are no coincidences.

And as for your questions about the plane crash memory, Prof. X's and Logan's lack of detection, etc. . . . let's just say that Mr. Sinister is very, very good at what he does.

Dear Guys,

About X-Men #241. I loved it. Madelyne makes a great Goblin Queen, and her amazing history has finally been revealed (about time, too). I am assuming that #242 will finally have a confrontation between Jean Grey and Madelyne Pryor. This whole mess involving Jean, Madelyne, and Scott seems to have taken a fairly long time to have been shown to the readers. If this thing is not resolved next issue, I will be rather disappointed, not to mention more than a little annoyed. The shmeer with these three has gone on long enough.

A small warning: if Longshot is dead, I will personally hire a professional hitman to bump you all off (just a thought to end my letter).

Mai Lee
34 Albemarle Ave.
Toronto, Ont.
M4K 1M7 Canada

Whoa, Mai! Give peace a chance! Longshot's not dead . . . just gone! Sheesh, we knew America was getting more violent . . . but CANADA!?

NEXT MONTH: Marc Silvestri returns as the X-Men deal with this issue's stunning shocker! As if Havok weren't devastated enough . . . he receives a cry for help from his beloved, Lorna Dane! It's dark days for the X-Men, folks, so be here in two weeks for the further shattering of the star.
NOTE: that's right . . . two weeks till next issue. It's summertime again and we're bi-weekly again . . . X-MEN x-citement twice a month! Are we crazy or what!?

MINUTEMEN
Bluntman